

1 killed in  
Gaza attack

RAFAH (AFP) — A Palestinian policeman was shot dead Tuesday in an attack on the home of a police general whose brother is a top Hamas official held in the United States, witnesses said. Three masked men sprayed the home in the Gaza Strip's Rafah refugee camp of Police General Mahmoud Abu Marzouk with Kalashnikov rifle fire, killing 25-year-old Wahed Limari who was on guard duty. The general in the civil defence, a branch of the Palestinian police, is a brother of Musa Abu Marzouk who was arrested in June at Kennedy Airport in New York. Musa Abu Marzouk has since been detained on suspicion of terrorist activities and Israel wants his extradition.

Hariri to visit  
Germany next week

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri will visit Germany next week for talks with officials on the Middle East peace process and economic cooperation, official sources said on Tuesday. They said it will be the first visit to Germany by a Lebanese prime minister. The four-day visit to begin Oct. 12 by the billionaire tycoon spearheading Lebanon's revival from the 1975-90 civil war, aims at boosting economic cooperation between the two countries, they added.

3 pro-Israelis killed  
in S. Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AP) — A roadside bomb killed two men and a woman working for Israel's militia ally, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), Wednesday, security sources reported. They said the ambush bore all the hallmarks of Hezbollah (Party of God), which spearheads a guerrilla war against the Israelis in the border zone they occupy in South Lebanon. The sources said the blast occurred at 3:45 p.m. (1345 GMT) as the three officials, part of the SLA administration which runs the zone's daily affairs, drove through the Beit Yahoun crossing point in the western sector of the Israeli's so-called "security zone."

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## 'Israeli air force can strike Iran'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's air force has the capacity to strike as far as targets in Iran, the general tipped to be its next chief said in an interview published Tuesday. "We can punish states which are not necessarily on the borders" of Israel, General Eitan Ben Eliyahu said in a reference to Iran. He is expected to replace Gen. Herzl Bodinger as air force chief in the coming months. "We already proved it in the past," he said, referring to Israel's bombardment in 1981 of Iraqi nuclear facilities. "And our dissuasion force, our striking force and our endurance levels are being strengthened each day." On Sunday, the Iranian air force chief warned Israel against attacks on nuclear installations in the country and said his force could retaliate with a "stunning blow." Brigadier General Habib Baghadi said he did not take "Israeli threats seriously because they are not in a position to make such threats." "They are fully mistaken if they think they have the capability to carry out their threats without reprisal. The air force stands fully prepared to inflict a stunning blow on them." The United States and Israel accuse Iran of trying to develop nuclear weapons, a charge denied by Tehran.

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Rabin assured of  
Knesset 'yes' for  
self-rule after snag

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assured of parliament's approval of the West Bank autonomy accord when a member of parliament who could have the decisive vote decided to back the deal on Tuesday.

"I will vote in favour of the autonomy accord," said Alex Goldfarb of the small Yehud party, an off-shoot of the far-right Tsomet party, after a one-hour meeting with Mr. Rabin.

Parliament meets on Thursday to debate the accord which Mr. Rabin signed with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat seven days earlier in Washington.

"I have reached an agreement with Rabin but I clearly pointed out to him that if the way the peace process continues does not satisfy me, I will stand against the government," said Mr. Goldfarb.

who is deputy housing minister.

He has been under pressure from the right-wing opposition to vote against the agreement to extend Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank.

Labour has only a narrow majority in the Knesset, or parliament. Mr. Goldfarb's vote could be decisive because two Labour deputies, Avigdor Kahalani and Emmanuel Zissman, have voiced opposition to the accord.

If they cast their votes against Mr. Goldfarb's decision means the government would still have a 61-59 majority for the West Bank agreement, unless he changes his mind.

"The fate of the Middle East today depends on a certain Alex Goldfarb," said Tsomet leader Raphael Eitan, with more than a hint of irony in his voice, before Mr. Goldfarb's decision was announced.

(Continued on page 7)

Israel at  
standstill

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel went on security alert Tuesday ahead of a 24-hour slowdown of all activity for the most solemn day in the Jewish religious calendar, Yom Kippur (day of atonement).

From sundown until the same time on Wednesday, cars are banned from the streets. Israel's air space is closed as well as sea ports, and all economic activity in the Jewish state grinds to a halt.

Television and radio also go off the air for 24 hours. Drivers risk having their cars stoned if they venture out, as do smokers.

Out of fear of attack by militants opposed to the peace process, private security firms have been contracted for the first time to protect the busiest synagogues.

The army and police issued a general alert and have kept the Gaza and the West Bank sealed off until at least Sunday. The closure could be extended another two weeks to cover more religious holidays.

Yael Pressler, adviser to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, called on all Israelis to be on guard for suspect packages. Israeli and Jewish institutions abroad also went on alert.

Observant Jews abstain from food and drink for the whole 24 hours and go to synagogues for prayers of repentence, until ram's horns sound out across the country for the end of the fast and start of a feast.

For children, the empty streets are a once-in-a-year chance to take advantage of empty streets with their bicycles, roller-skates and skateboards, despite criticism from more orthodox Jewish circles.

Since the October 1973 war when Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on the day of Yom Kippur, Israel also commemorates its 3,000 dead in the conflict.

Palestinian radio also went off the air on Tuesday for the duration of Yom Kippur.

Palestine Radio, which broadcasts from Jericho on the West Bank, said it would resume on Thursday after "maintenance work."

The station depends on the Israeli communications company Bezek, which observes the Yom Kippur shutdown.

Palestine Radio, when it was newly-established, also stopped broadcasts last year during Yom Kippur.

Religious Jews approach Yom Kippur with trepidation

Palestinian-ruled Gaza and Jericho, where Israel has control over entry.

Libya says the Palestinians have left the country in response to appeals from Col. Qaddafi but the Palestinians say they had to go because they had lost their jobs and their homes.

Col. Qaddafi has said Arab countries should encourage Palestinians to leave, to emphasize the shortcomings of the self-rule agreements between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Libyan embassy in Cairo invited journalists to the news conference in the Musaid area and said it was arranging transport for the 750-km journey.

Travellers said the Libyan authorities had brought large quantities of food and water to the Palestinian camp, apparently to create a good impression for a Qaddafi visit.

But Libyan security sources said the Libyans had set up a marquee and a podium near Musaid town, well back from the camp where some 400 Palestinians have been waiting for days for clearance to cross into Egypt.

People are waiting for Qaddafi to come on Wednesday or Thursday to tell them the show is over, that's it's over.

(Continued on page 7)

Turkish tremor  
deaths rise to 76Jordan sends  
condolences

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein, the government and people of Jordan, Tuesday, sent a cable of condolences to Turkish President Suleyman Demirel on the loss of lives suffered in the town of Dinar as a result of Monday's earthquake.

The bodies of those killed in the quake were being buried by their families in graveyards in and around Dinar.

Residents meanwhile lashed out at local authorities for failing to evacuate the town beforehand and failing to provide enough shelter for the victims.

Numerous refugees from the shattered city of 35,000 told AFP that the mayor and other government officials had encouraged Dinar residents to remain at home Sunday.

(Continued on page 7)

Crown Prince stresses need to present  
right image of Jordan at MENA summit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday called at the Prime Ministry where he met with Acting Prime Minister and Education Minister Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, in the presence of Khalid Karaki, deputy prime minister and information minister.

The Regent issued directives on a number of issues of common interest to the people.

Later Prince Hassan chaired a meeting at the Prime Ministry to review preparations for the Middle East and North Africa economic summit, which will be held here on Oct. 29.

Prince Hassan stressed the need to finalize all preparations on time to ensure the success of the conference.

He emphasized the need to present Jordan as an example for democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights, particularly that Jordan is participating in building the post-peace era and enhancing its pivotal role in the region.

Prince Hassan said the conference should stress Jordan's humanitarian vision, noting the importance of fostering consultation and coordination and opening horizons of cooperation and investment among nations to ensure the interests

Journalist held over  
'ties-to-Iraq'  
report

By Natasha Bukhari  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an unprecedented move, a public prosecutor yesterday ordered the detention of the Amman correspondent of the London-based Al Hayat Arabic daily for allegedly violating the law in a report last week claiming that some Jordanian journalists and officials were on the payroll of the Iraqi regime.

The prosecutor general issued a detention order for 14 days and rejected bail attempts, a legal source said, adding that the Al Hayat correspondent, Salameh Ne'matt, was being investigated for charges of violating the Press and Publications Law as well as slander and libel against public officials.

On Tuesday some of the camp residents said they had heard that Col. Qaddafi might take them back into his country.

People are waiting for Qaddafi to come on Wednesday or Thursday to tell them the show is over, that's it's over.

(Continued on page 7)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday chairs a meeting at the Prime Ministry to review preparations for the Oct. 29-31 Middle East and North Africa economic summit (Photo by Yousef Allan)

of the people of the region.

The meeting was attended by Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, His Majesty King Hussein's military secretary.

Prince Hassan also received the vice president of the German Parliament (Bundestag), Hans Klein, and reviewed with him bilateral relations.

The Regent stressed Germany's role in developing the region and supporting the peace process.

Earlier Mr. Rawabdeh

met with Mr. Klein and stressed Jordan's interest in achieving a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

Mr. Rawabdeh expressed Jordan's appreciation to Germany for its continuous support for Jordan and praised relations between Jordan and Germany.

He voiced hope that the partnership between Jordan and Germany be extended to cover the entire European countries.

## Simpson is acquitted



O.J. Simpson  
and his friend Ronald Goldman, 25, were slain June 12, 1994.

The curious throngs and an army of media began arriving at the courthouse early Tuesday, while police went on tactical alert to brace for possible trouble in the streets.

News helicopters roared outside. Barricades blocked the street. In the courthouse lobby, hundreds of people vied for the few precious public seats in the courtroom. As their lottery numbers

were pulled, the lucky few cheered.

They came to take their place in history, to experience the verdict of the century.

Mr. Simpson, 48, faced a maximum term of life in prison without parole if he had been convicted of the murders. But as his trial progressed, it often seemed irrelevant that two young people were slain in a white van. The former football great had been in jail for more than a year. Outside the jail, throngs of supporters lined up to catch a glimpse of Mr. Simpson.

President Bill Clinton said the verdict must be respected, and that Americans' thoughts and prayers should be with the families of the victims of the crime of which Mr. Simpson was accused, the White House said.

Sobs could be heard in the courtroom as the verdicts, acquitting Mr. Simpson of both first and second-degree murder, were read. Mr. Simpson hugged his attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr.

Mr. Simpson's ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, was also freed.

Local media speculated the bomb might be the work of Macedonia's nationalists or neighbouring states Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Albania.

The republic, with its large ethnic Albanian minority, is a historic point of contention for neighbouring states Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Albania.

Local media speculated the bomb might be the work of Macedonia's nationalists or neighbouring states Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Albania.

The bomb, triggered by remote control, exploded in a parked car as Mr. Gligorov's limousine drove past. Police arrested two men who fled the scene in a car.

Sources at the blast scene said most of the windows on nearby houses were shattered by the explosion, which occurred at about 9:30 a.m. (0830 GMT).

The site is about 100 metres from Mr. Gligorov's office. The president's route to his office is well-known, and the car often must slow down for heavy traffic at the

point where the bomb went off.

Macedonia gained independence in the breakup of the old Yugoslav federation, but has found the going difficult.

The republic, with its large ethnic Albanian minority, is a historic point of contention for neighbouring states Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Albania.

Local media speculated the bomb might be the work of Macedonia's nationalists or neighbouring states Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece and Albania.

Macedonian officials said mutual recognition was ex-

(Continued on page 7)

## Sudan reports Libyan reprise for workers

KHARTOUM (AP) — Libya has given 300,000 Sudanese until year's end to leave the country, allowing impoverished Sudan more time to prepare for a flood of poor, unemployed workers. Libya had ordered the labourers out by Sept. 30. Sudanese officials said, because they had no work permits. The expulsions may also have been prompted by Libyan suspicions that Sudan's Islamist government was behind recent unrest in eastern Libya. An estimated 450,000 Sudanese reside in Libya, and more than 10,000 have already been expelled. Thousands more were reported gathering at an oasis that is the last stop before the border in an exodus that Sudanese officials had predicted would take three months and conclude before the end of the year. Tajeeddin Al Mahdi, the minister for expatriate affairs, said Tuesday that Libya had agreed to give the Sudanese three more months so they could prepare themselves for returning home. Libya will allow the deportees to take all their goods and that they would receive all money owed to them, he said.

## Stranded Palestinians face a long way home

**SALLOUM (AFP)** — They all have rings under their eyes, the men are unshaven and the babies cry from fatigue.

The Palestinians expelled from Libya have only finished the first part of their voyage after arriving at the Egyptian border post of Salloum, along the Mediterranean Sea.

They will have to travel another thousand kilometres (600 miles) under police surveillance to reach Rafah, the access point to the Gaza Strip, or Nuweiba on the Red Sea.

From there, they can travel to Aqaba and eventually to the West Bank. The voyage home to the Palestinian self-rule areas is a disjointed, gruelling and uncertain one.

"We have spent a day and a night" to get past the Egyptian border, said Talal Awad, part of a group of 61 Palestinians who were eating breakfast about 75 kilometres from Salloum at a restaurant in Sidi Barrani.

Mr. Talal, 32, was a nurse in the Libyan town of Al Marg, near Benghazi. But officials suspended his work contract and he left with his wife and three children. Mr. Talal says he has no idea

what he will do in Gaza.

On the road that follows the coast, minibuses with suitcases strapped to their roofs head east. Mr. Talal looked at them a moment and smiled.

"To think I named my son Aed (return), to show my desire to return to my country," he said.

Libya appears to have launched Saturday a massive operation to expel the 30,000 Palestinian residing within its borders, setting up a large camp along the Egyptian border to house those who do not have valid travel documents.

More than 300 were trapped in the no man's land along the border, and another 500 were due on Tuesday, Egyptian border officials said.

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi has ordered the expulsion of all Palestinians to show up what he says is the failure of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) self-rule accord to create a viable Palestinian homeland.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees estimates that between 5,000 and 10,000 Palestinians have already left Libya over the past four months.

Israeli permits to reside in the autonomous areas.

Mr. Talal said he had to bribe the Egyptian border officials to pass through. The minibus taking him to Rafah with another family is costing him more than \$600, an extravagant price.

"We have two (Palestinian) police officers with us and they are guarding our passports," Mr. Talal said.

Even for those expelled Palestinians who hold valid travel documents, the formalities are lengthy at the Salloum border post. The office is filled with families who end up falling asleep because of the wait. In the hallways, women with children clutching their dresses plead with officials.

One of the policeman with Mr. Talal asks him to pay for his breakfast. Mr. Talal protests but then proposes that the cost be shared with the other Palestinians. "They told me to leave (Libya) without giving me any money," one of the Palestinian police-man said.

Egypt only allows the Palestinians to transit its territory. Border officials scrupulously examine their documents, denying entry to those who do not have valid



Four-year-old Palestinian Randa Samy gives a victory sign after her family got permission from Israel to return home through Egypt to the West Bank after being expelled from Libya (AFP photo)

## Rabbani forces claim control of centre of northern region

**KABUL (AFP)** — Forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani have captured a strategic city in northern Jawzjan province, the Defence Ministry spokesman here claimed Tuesday.

"Sangcharak fell to our forces Monday. The whole district is now under state control," the ministry said.

No independent confirmation of the claim was available.

The district centre is linked by road to Sheberghan, the capital of Jawzjan province.

United Nations peace envoy Mahmoud Mestiri was reportedly in Sheberghan Monday to negotiate a ceasefire between troops of Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum and pro-Rabbani forces.

On Monday, a spokesman for Gen. Dostum in Pakistan, Sibghatullah Zaki, ruled out a ceasefire with Mr. Rabbani until the president resigned.

In a written statement, the Defence Ministry here said its commander in Sangcharak, Abdul Rahim Ayobi, had reported the capture of "25 heavy weapons of different types, two tanks and several

ammunition depots."

The Defence Ministry claims that pro-Rabbani forces in Sangcharak are now linked by road with their allies in neighbouring Balkh and Samangan provinces, allowing the free passage of supplies and reinforcements.

The reported pro-Rabbani successes in northern Afghanistan follow a string of defeats in the west, where the provinces of Herat, Farah and Nimroz recently fell to the Taliban movement.

Meanwhile, fighting continued between pro-Rabbani forces and the Taliban west of Kabul in the Sanglakh Valley.

The Defence Ministry claimed that in a "sudden ambush" against a Taliban BM-1 rocket launcher site in Sanglakh its troops had killed an army officer of Pakistan nationality, and recovered incriminating documents from his corpse.

In the past month, the Kabul government has repeatedly accused Pakistan of militarily assisting the Taliban, while Pakistan has ac-

cused Mr. Rabbani of receiving support from India. Both sides deny the other's charges.

The Afghan capital has not yet come under direct attack by the Taliban who have repeatedly threatened to target it.

The Kabul government also said Tuesday a Pakistani officer was killed during a government ambush on opposition-held territory west of Kabul.

"In this ambush a Pakistani officer has also been killed," said the defence ministry's spokesman, who goes only by the name Abdullah.

Pakistani leaders dismissed the claim and insist they are impartial observers to Afghanistan's long-running civil war.

"It's patently absurd," Foreign Office spokesman Hanif Gul told the Associated Press in the Pakistani capital Islamabad. "It's so visibly a fabrication it's not even worth commenting upon."

## Israeli right wing struggles to tap opposition to W. Bank deal

**TEL AVIV (AP)** — Right-wing firebrand Moshe Feiglin advised fellow militants gathered in a hotel basement that they had a problem: Israelis seem indifferent to the once-dreaded prospect of a Palestinian state.

Such an eventuality was unthinkable to the 40 activists, mostly West Bank settlers, listening to Mr. Feiglin.

But it was business and usual throughout the land after Israel agreed to hand the Palestinians control over West Bank towns that many religious Jews claim as an inseparable part of their country.

There was not even enough outrage to stage planned mass protests to block Israel's highways last Thursday, the day the expanded autonomy

agreement was signed in Washington.

"It's every commander's nightmare: I said, 'follow me,' and found myself alone," said Mr. Feiglin, a 33-year-old U.S.-educated computer scientist who heads the Ziv Artzenu (this is our) land.

He attributed the failure to a tough police response to such past protests: "People just don't want to fight the police and get arrested anymore."

Most right-wing rallies, including a well-publicised campaign of illegal encampments on West Bank hilltops, attracted at most hundreds. The masses of veteran, secular Israelis, even those with reservations about the peace process, stayed home.

At the fore of these de-

monstrations are activists like those listening to Mr. Feiglin last week in a beachfront Tel Aviv hotel.

Most are Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who opposes Israeli withdrawal for security reasons; many also oppose relinquishing West Bank land out of religious or nationalist ideology.

But they are far from a cross-section of Israelis.

Zeev Sternhali, a political scientist at the Hebrew University, maintained the sanguine atmosphere indicated "there isn't, and probably never was, a determined majority favouring permanent control of the territories."

"There is a deepening recognition that there is no serious alternative to the policy

of compromise," he wrote in the Haaretz daily.

In fact, a narrow majority of Israelis, about 55 per cent, say they support the peace process, and only about a quarter of vehemently against it, said pollster Hanoch Smith.

"Not too many people

other than the settlers have a very special connection" to the West Bank and Gaza, Mr. Smith said. "An overwhelming majority say they haven't even been there recently."

But opponents of a Palestinian state warn not to count them out just because the strength of their protests is waning.

Leaders of the main opposition party, Likud, suspect their traditional supporters, who tend to be respect-

ful of authority, recoil from the sight of soldiers dragging protesters off hilltops and scuffles with police.

They note that most polls nonetheless show the opposition stands an even chance of unseating Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in election scheduled for November 1996.

Likud leaders planned a more conventional mass rally in Jerusalem this Thursday, just as parliament is to vote on the West Bank accord.

But while some right-wing politicians still speak of a Palestinian state in apocalyptic terms, Likud head Benjamin Netanyahu refuses to say he would repeal the autonomy accords. Aides hint they might accept Palestinian rule on some of the West Bank if other areas

could be salvaged.

Future Likud rallies reportedly will focus on land even Mr. Rabin wants to keep as part of a future final peace deal, such as the Jordan River Valley and areas around Jerusalem.

Eve Harow, an activist in the Efrat settlement just south of Jerusalem, said many people have concluded the government is ignoring demonstrations and therefore intend to "just wait it out until the next elections."

"Just because there aren't hundreds of thousands of people in the street doesn't mean there aren't hundreds of thousands, even millions of angry people," said Mr. Harow, 34, a Los Angeles native who immigrated to Israel in 1987.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Far-right puts death curse on Rabin

**TEL AVIV (AFP)** — Israeli far-right activists have put an Aramaic death curse on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for trying to make peace with the Palestinians. Haaretz newspaper reported Tuesday, around 20 supporters of the outlawed anti-Arab group Kach prayed for Mt. Rabin's death outside his residence on Monday night, as rabbi Yosef Dayan read out the curse called "pulsa denura" (rod of fire) in Aramaic. "May Yitzhak, son of Rosa, perish by fire and the sword... for his sins," the prayer said in the ancient tongue. "May the good be possessed in this world be taken away. Let him perish for the evil he is inflicting on the sacred people, for the lands of Greater Israel that he is surrendering to our enemies... May all maledictions befall him until his death." Israel's grand rabbi, Israel Meir Lau, protested against such a curse on the head of government, especially on the eve of Yom Kippur (day of atonement), the most sacred day in the Jewish calendar.

### Rabin's wife sends gift to baby Arafat

**TEL AVIV (AFP)** — Leah Rabin, wife of the Israeli prime minister, has sent a dove-shaped silver ornament as a peace gift for Yasser Arafat's baby girl, Zahwa. The Jerusalem Post newspaper reported Tuesday that Yitzhak Rabin's wife handed the present to mother Suha Arafat at the White House when they met at the signing of the West Bank accord last week. "May your baby always be cradled with peace," was the inscription on the ornament for Zahwa's crib.

### S. Korea to send aid to Iraq

**SEOUL (AFP)** — South Korea will send \$70,000 worth of medical supplies to Iraq as humanitarian assistance this month and is preparing to resume trade and investment ties with Baghdad as soon as U.N. sanctions are lifted. The Foreign Ministry said here Tuesday. A ministry spokesman told AFP that Seoul had obtained the approval of the U.N. Sanctions Committee for the shipment of "medical supplies and daily necessities" two weeks ago, and that they would be sent within the month. In New York, South Korean Foreign Minister Gong Ro-Myoung held talks Monday with his Iraqi counterpart, Mohammad Al Sahaf, on the resumption of trade and investment between the two countries as soon as the U.N. sanctions are lifted. Yonhap news agency said Iraq owes South Korean contractors some \$1.35 billion in outstanding construction and import payment debts and Seoul is anxious to recoup the money as soon as possible. Yonhap quoted a spokesman for Mr. Gong as saying the humanitarian aid is the first of its kind from South Korea since the outbreak of the Gulf war in 1990.

### UAE creates team to battle drugs use

**DUBAI (AFP)** — The United Arab Emirates has created a ministerial action committee to try to fight the growing traffic and use of drugs in this Gulf country, newspapers reported on Tuesday. The team includes the ministers of the interior, Islamic affairs, the economy, justice, health and youth, as well as military leaders, and aims to "mobilise efforts to fight against the threat of drugs," the press reported. The UAE brought in the death penalty for drugs smuggling in April amid mounting concern that the country was becoming a transit point for narcotics from the likes of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Police have seized more than eight tonnes of hashish, cocaine, heroin and opium in the UAE in the past three years and say drugs use is spreading to the local population as well as expatriates. They say the emirates attracts drugs traffickers because it is close to drug-producing countries and its 500 kilometres (310 miles) of coastline are difficult to guard.

### Libya, Philippines to discuss insurgency

**MANILA (AP)** — Philippine and Libyan officials this week will discuss progress in two-year-old peace talks between Manila and Muslim secessionist rebels, a senior Filipino official said Monday. The two sides also will discuss other bilateral issues such as the deployment of Filipino workers to Libya, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Libya, an influential member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), hosted peace talks between the government of the late President Ferdinand Marcos and the Moro National Liberation Front, the main Muslim secessionist faction fighting for Muslim self-rule in the southern Philippines. The talks led to the 1976 Tripoli agreement that called for the establishment of an autonomous Muslim region. The rebels, however, accused the Marcos government of renegeing on the agreement and resumed fighting until the strongman was ousted in February 1986. Sporadic fighting continued until 1992 when Indonesia, Libya and other leading OIC members helped bring the rebels and the Manila government under President Fidel Ramos back to the negotiating table. Formal talks, hosted by Jakarta, began in 1993. The talks, however, have bogged down on the question of the manner of establishing a provisional regional government.

### Three killed in Mogadishu fighting

**MOGADISHU (AFP)** — Three people were killed and seven others wounded when supporters of two Somali warlords clashed in south Mogadishu late Monday, witnesses said Tuesday. Militiamen loyal to General Mohammad Farah Aideed and those supporting his rival Osman Ali Hassan "Atto" traded machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades after a quarrel over the legitimacy of Gen. Aideed's self-declared government, which has been denounced by Mr. Osman Atto. A radio station supporting Mr. Aideed's militiamen launched the attack on positions held by Atto loyalists, but that the offensive had been repulsed. The fighting lasted half-an-hour.

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 ... Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK) 23:10 ... Beirut, London (BA)  
10:20 ... ... 23:20 ... Amsterdam (KL)  
12:15 ... Jeddah (SV) 03:00 ... Athens (OA)  
17:20 ... London, Cairo (MS)  
17:30 ... ... 20:00 ... ...  
20:10 ... ... 20:10 ... ...  
21:00 ... ... 21:00 ... ...  
21:05 ... ... 21:05 ... ...  
21:20 ... ... 21:20 ... ...  
23:25 ... ... 23:25 ... ...

### HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman ... 08:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damacus ... 08:00 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in \$/ per kg.

Apple ... 450/480

Banana ... 400/450

Cabbage ... 200/250

Carrrot ... 400/500

Cauliflower ... 300/350

Cucumbers (large) ... 180/200

Cucumbers (small) ... 280/300

Eggplant ... 270/300

Garlic ... 700/800

Grapes ... 600/700

Guava ... 600/700

Lemon ... 200/250

Mango (large) ... 200/250

Mango (small) ... 200/250

Mulberry ... 200/250

Olives ... 900/1200

Onion (dry) ... 300/400

Orange ... 500/600

Pepper (hot) ... 200/250

Pepper (sweet) ... 300/400

Pomegranate ... 300/400

Potato ... 300/400</

## Police investigating death of schoolboy Ministry official says conflicting testimonies have been received

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Authorities are still investigating the case of 15-year-old Ala' Mufidah, a student at Kiteiba School in Hashemi Shamali, who was killed Sept. 25 during school break, informed sources said.

"At this time we cannot release any details concerning the incident until autopsy results arrive," a source at the Ministry of Education told the Jordan Times.

There were conflicting reports concerning the killing: An incident which shocked the local community.

According to sources, Ala', a 10th grader, and one of 1,100 students at the school, left his class for recess outdoors at approximately 10:25 a.m. By 10:30 a.m., Ala' was being rushed to Al Bashir Hospital but died on the way.

No teachers were in the schoolyard when the incident occurred, according to student witnesses.

The Ministry of Education official explained the absence of any teachers at the time, saying that the teachers are required to stay in the classrooms until all their students have left for recess.

"It was during these few moments that Ala' was

attacked," the official said.

According to the victim's schoolmates, Ala' was assaulted by a group of 12th grade students.

One schoolmate said that the students stomped on Ala's stomach, "then one student struck him in the back of the neck with a glass bottle."

He said that Ala' "was probably beaten up because he and some of his friends went and complained to school administrators that 12th graders were snaking at school."

Another student told the Jordan Times that the 12th graders may have beaten up Ala' because of old feuds. He would not elaborate on the matter.

"We have not yet reached a conclusion about what really happened that day at school," the Ministry of Education official told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

According to relatives, Ala's father died four years ago in Kuwait, and the boy lived with his mother in Hashemi Shamali.

According to Mrs. Mufidah and other confirmed sources, police are holding two suspects in connection with the incident. Witnesses are also still being questioned.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Tuesday would only confirm the death of the boy but declined to release any further details saying they were investigating the incident.

"Authorities have been completely silent over the incident, and we have not received any information,

## \$10.6m construction project to upgrade Al Samra wastewater treatment plant

By Ramadan Kawashdeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Israeidat and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan Tuesday attended a ground-breaking ceremony for the construction project to upgrade facilities at the Al Samra Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWTP).

The project, which will cost \$10.6 million, is to be implemented with a U.S. grant of \$9 million and the balance, \$1.6 million, is expected to be paid by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

The project is designed to raise the efficiency of the treatment plant to improve its quality and to minimise odours from the plant through the construction of

additional anaerobic ponds and odour collection treatment facilities.

The programme includes a separate activity to minimise industrial pollution at its source, which will automatically reduce the amount of pollutants reaching Al Samra plant.

This activity is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the Amman Chamber of Industry, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and several private sector industries located at the Zarqa River Basin.

Speaking at the site, Dr. Israeidat voiced appreciation of the American assistance noting that the project will have a very positive impact on the regions surrounding the plant which is

in dire need of upgrading.

Mr. Egan said that the project is of vital importance to help safeguard water resources and that the treated water should be recycled and used in irrigation and for industrial processes. Recycling will save much of the valuable fresh water used currently in irrigation systems.

Mr. Egan said the treatment of wastewater will help protect the environment and underground water resources and the atmosphere.

The plant, which was built in 1985, was designed to process 68,000 cubic metres of wastewater a day but has been processing 170,000 cubic metres a day.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Queen receives rare photograph

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday attended a reception in her honour hosted by British Member of Parliament Emma Nicholson at the House of Commons, a Royal Court statement said Tuesday. Queen Noor was presented with an unpublished photograph of the late King Abdullah from the photographic archives of the Palestinian Exploration Fund, the statement said. The chairman of the fund, Stephen Day, described King Abdullah as "one of the great figures who formed the modern Middle East."

### Muta meeting reviews university roles

MUTA (Petra) — The Higher Council of Education Tuesday discussed issues on admission at universities, general and private accreditation of universities and the formation of a committee grouping representatives of both the state and private sector universities to prepare a working paper on the role of universities in training cadres. The meeting, which was held at Muta University was attended by Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, the King's cultural advisor.

### Slight rise in temperature expected

AMMAN (J.T.) — The country will continue to be affected by a cold air mass, which started affecting the country Monday, according to meteorology department sources. The sources said a gradual rise in temperatures is expected Wednesday with temperatures reaching 23°C, but temperatures will still be 5-6 degrees lower than the average temperature for this season.

### Petra visitors pay JD 406, 850 in entry fees

PETRA — The Department of Antiquities last month collected JD 406,850 in admission fees from 22,650 people who visited the ancient Nabatean city in September, according to Suleiman Farajat, director of the Petra Antiquities Department. Mr. Farajat said the figure includes 19,550 foreign tourists and 3,100 Jordanians.

## Private sector committee says swift action required to succeed at MENA

By a Jordan Times  
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian private sector Tuesday agreed that swift action was necessary to be optimally prepared for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit to be held in Amman at the end of this month and attempted to decide on joint strategies to achieve common goals.

Participants and organizers of the fourth and last roundtable meeting of the Private Sector Executive Committee (PSEC) identified a number of factors which they said had to be secured to ensure successful private sector participation in the summit.

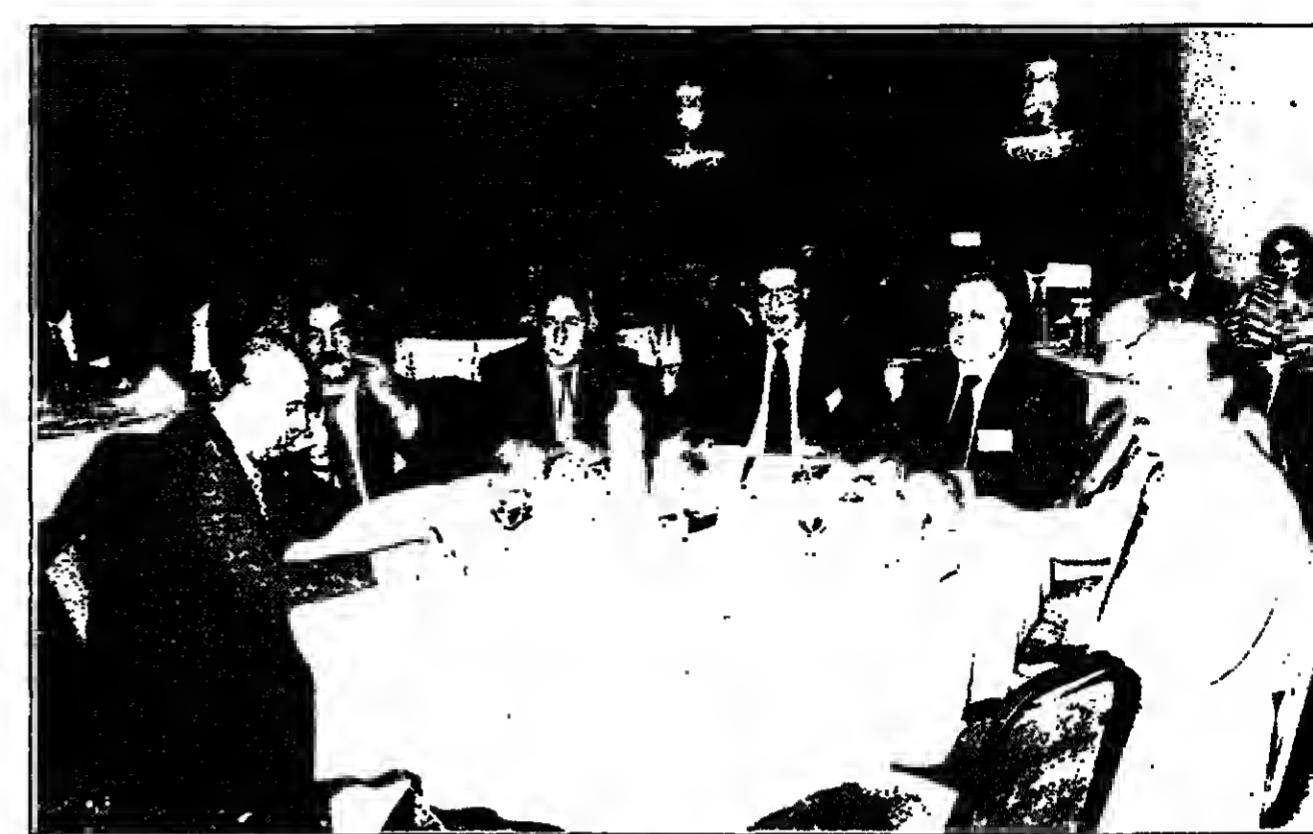
Better coordination between the public and the private sector ranked high on the list of issues which need to be resolved prior to the start of the conference on Sept. 29.

According to Mr. Thabit Taher, President of the PSEC, a meeting between representatives of the public sector and the private sector must be arranged soon to coordinate efforts.

It was also pointed out that the Jordanian government must speed up moves to appoint a delegation to the conference.

"The countdown for the conference has started, and Jordan has still not agreed on the composition of the committee which will represent Jordan at the conference," complained one of the participants.

Talib Rifa'i, Director of the Trade Centre at the Jordanian Embassy in Washington, said that the appointment of the delegation had been delayed so far to ensure optimal and comprehensive composition



Private Sector Executive Committee President Thabit Taher (second left) Tuesday presides over the final round-table meeting of the panel in preparation for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit later this month (Petra photo)

representing all sectors.

Dr. Shabib Ammari, rapporteur of the PSEC, listed a series of six private sector objectives for the MENA conference:

to introduce investment opportunities in Jordan to the largest number of conference participants;

to present, in the form of project profiles, 136 private sector projects;

to create channels of communication with the largest number of participants, including individuals, business representatives, consultants and international agencies and organizations;

to highlight success stories in the Jordanian economy of the 10 most successful private companies in the country;

to pursue the objective of improving Jordan's image abroad; and to create mechanisms for successful follow-up of the conference to ensure the implementation of projects.

which give the Jordanian economy a relative advantage in certain sectors over other countries in the region; to highlight factors which attract foreign investment such as investment-friendly legislation, political pluralism, good infrastructure and high levels of education; to highlight success stories in the Jordanian economy of the 10 most successful private companies in the country;

to pursue the objective of improving Jordan's image abroad; and to create mechanisms for successful follow-up of the conference to ensure the implementation of projects.

a tent, Dr. Taher said. Information will be stored on a CD-Rom system.

Dr. Taher suggested that a list of participants in the conference, which is updated daily, be distributed among participants prior to the conference to give interested parties the chance to contact potential business partners prior to the meeting in Amman, where time will be limited.

The PSEC panel chairing the round-table meeting expressed its gratitude to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for its cooperation with the PSEC in the preparations for the summit.

### Mother arrested in connection with murder of 5-year-old

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Irbid police Tuesday arrested a woman in connection with the murder of her five-year-old child at their home in Al Huson town, according to confirmed sources.

Rabab Awad's body was found at around 11:00 p.m. in the rooftop water tank of her house in Shahid Azmi Mufti area, police told the Jordan Times.

The source said the mother confessed to killing the child and added that authorities have also questioned Rabab's father.

Director of Irbid Police Department was unavailable Tuesday evening to comment on the murder.

Police confirmed that a child was killed, but declined to give any further details.

10-year-old child killed

Meanwhile, in Ghor Safi, police are investigating two separate murders, one concerning a 10-year-old child and the other a 22-year-old man.

In the first incident, a 10-year-old boy, reported missing from the Safi area since Sept. 29, was found

murdered, according to

confirmed sources. The sources said the boy may have been sexually assaulted.

The decomposed body of Hassan Mohammad was found Monday around noon buried near a deserted house in Ghor Safi, the source said.

The source added that preliminary examination of the child's body indicated that he might have been strangled to death and that there were signs that the child might have been

strangled.

Authorities also retrieved the body of a 22-year-old Egyptian national whose body was found under a pile of vegetation in Al Samra area, the sources said.

One source told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the body of Jamal Abu Zeinab was apparently dragged 100 metres to the site where it was found.

According to the source, preliminary investigations indicated that the victim received one blow to the head with an iron bar "which possibly caused his death."

Police declined to release details and said they were investigating the two incidents.

### Jordanian team heads for Afro-Arab dialogue in Pretoria

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-member Jordanian delegation led by Minister of Culture Samir Habashneh Tuesday left for Pretoria, South Africa to take part in an Afro-Arab dialogue session organized by the Arab League and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

In a pre-departure statement, Mr. Habashneh said that he was carrying a message from His Majesty King Hussein to South African President Nelson Mandela on cultural relations and inviting Mr. Mandela to visit Jordan.

Mr. Habashneh will hold talks with his South African counterpart on Jordanian

and cultural cooperation.

He said he will also hold talks with the Egyptian Minister of Culture on bilateral cultural relations.

### Heads of local councils seek to lure investment to meet municipal needs

AMMAN (Petra) — A recommendation passed by heads of local councils at the end of a two-day meeting on the services of municipal councils held in Amman called for promoting investments in income-generating schemes to ensure sufficient finances to meet residents' needs.

Participants at the meeting, held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said there was urgent need for the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment which organized

the meeting to cooperate with the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) in conducting feasibility studies on investment projects which these councils can initiate.

The seminar called for amendments in the CVDB regulations that would facilitate investments in cooperation with the private sector and allow heads of local councils to become members of the bank's board.

The participants demanded that local councils be assisted by the ministry to set up joint public gardens

### Jordanian delegation returns from Habitat meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Housing and Urban Development Department Yousef Hiyasat and the Jordanian delegation accompanying him Tuesday returned home from Morocco after attending the 3rd Arab preparatory meeting for the 2nd United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat) which concluded in Rabat Monday. In an arrival statement Dr. Hiyasat said the meeting approved the Arab declaration for developing human settlements, in preparation for submitting it to the 13th session of the Council of Arab ministers of Housing and Reconstruction for endorsement. He said that participants crystallized a unified Arab stand which will serve as an entry point for dealing with the international declaration of principles and plan of action to be adopted at the forthcoming UN conference.

#### WHAT'S GOING ON

##### LITERATURE CAFE

"Literature Cafe"—a gathering to relate La Fontaine's stories of oriental roots (In Arabic and French).

##### LECTURE

\* "Dr. No" at the British Council at 7:00 pm.

##### FILM

\* "A Journey to Damascus" (in Arabic) by Architect Jamal Al Juqqa at Darat Al Funun at 6:00pm.

##### EXHIBITIONS

"Photography exhibition "Islam in Spain" at Instituto Cervantes.

\* "Abstract art by the Syrian artist Mohammad Daghestani at the Phoenix Gallery.

\* Jordanian-Syrian-Turkish products at King Abdullah Gardens, Al Bassam Hall.

## Sri Lanka rebels reportedly suffer major defeat; death toll hits 350

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas suffered a major setback Tuesday as the armed forces reported killing more than 250 rebels in fierce fighting, bringing the combined death toll from a two-day-old army offensive to at least 350.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) used suicide bombers in a bid to halt a military advance in their Jaffna peninsula stronghold but were pulverised by artillery and infantry, defence officials said.

Military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said some 1,000 LTTE men and women were sent into Atchavuveli, an area that had been captured from the guerrillas Monday, and a ferocious four-hour battle ensued that at times saw hand-to-hand combat.

"We are certain that we killed over 200 Tigers. We have so far recovered 144 bodies, of both men and women Tigers. We found a lot of automatic rifles and mortars," Brig. Munasinghe said, adding: "This is a major debacle for the terror-

ists."

The Tigers also suffered about 250 cadres wounded in action while army losses were put at nine soldiers killed and another 19 wounded. Fighting had died down by Tuesday afternoon and troops took position in newly captured areas.

Western diplomats and defence analysts here said that the losses were a serious blow to the Tamil Tigers who had earlier vowed to beat off any military advance inside Jaffna, the capital of a de facto state run by the rebels.

The losses were an especially hard blow, given that the Tiger offensive was led by the LTTE's deputy leader, Balraj, and a key local commander, Swamam, defence sources said.

Shortly before taking on the ground troops, the LTTE deployed suicide bombers to ram an explosives-laden boat against a navy landing craft ferrying troops from the battle front back to their homes outside the war zone.

A military statement said 15 soldiers and three sailors aboard the landing craft, the

Ranagaja, were killed and another 40 wounded in the fierce two-hour battle, which took place off the northeastern Mullaitivu coast early Tuesday.

The navy sank seven Tiger boats and claimed killing at least 30 LTTE guerrillas from its Sea Tiger unit. It gave the names of five LTTE suicide bombers known as Black Sea Tigers who perished in the confrontation.

Defence sources said that the LTTE had also fired rocket-propelled grenades at the navy craft.

Brig. Munasinghe said they expected the Tigers to retaliate following the army's operation, code-named "Thunder Strike," which was launched inside the peninsula Sunday with the deployment of 7,500 infantrymen.

On Monday, 19 soldiers were lost for the claimed killing of 51 Tiger cadres.

The death toll in two days of fighting is 346, according to the military, added to which are six civilian deaths. Earlier the LTTE had said that 5,000 people were left homeless.

The Tigers are leading a campaign for a homeland for minority Tamils concentrated in the northern and eastern regions. More than 50,000 people have died in the conflict, which has dragged on since 1972.

## Police find enough cyanide to kill 70,000 at Japan cult hideout

TOKYO (AFP) — Police said Tuesday they had found enough sodium cyanide in the suspected hideout of an Aum Supreme Truth member to kill 70,000 people, adding there was a danger of attacks by 10 fugitive members.

A camper found 17 bottles containing 8.5 kilograms (18.7 pounds) of cyanide on Sept. 28 near a tent in a mountainous area of Tochigi prefecture, north of Tokyo, a police spokesman said.

The bottles, only half of which had caps, were close to camping equipment, sweaters and food.

Satoru Hirata, 30, a member of the doomsday sect's "intelligence unit," is believed to have hidden at the camp. Police want to question him about the death of a Tokyo notary.

Sodium cyanide was found in devices intended to generate cyanide gas at a Tokyo subway station in May and at a train station in July. Police have attributed both attacks to Aum, saying as many as 25,000 people could have been killed if the

devices had worked as planned.

Sect members, including leader Shoko Aspara, are also charged with murder and attempted murder in the March 20 sarin nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway, which killed 11 people and injured more than 5,000.

Police said the latest find indicates Aum members might still have toxic substances that could be used in further terrorist attacks.

Ten senior Aum members are still at large, and some are suspected of possessing toxic chemicals, including nerve gas.

Mr. Hirata and Sayuri Matsumoto, an Aum member believed to be behind the Tokyo train station cyanide incident in July, are believed to have hidden in the area where the cyanide cache was found for about a month. Police said they kept in touch with other Aum members with a pager and a cellular phone.

Meanwhile, the central government is expected soon to make a final decision whether to approve a move to outlaw the cult, which has been killed if the

government officials said Tuesday.

A Tokyo district court is considering a government request to withdraw the sect's status as an official religious group, which provides tax breaks and other preferential treatment. A hearing is scheduled for Friday.

But even if the court agrees, the sect could still exist as an unofficial organisation. So public security authorities were considering applying the country's 1952 subversive activities prevention law, never invoked on any organisation, against the group. That would ban members from congregating and end its activities.

But Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Tuesday that he would ask the ministry to handle the case "very carefully."

Some lawmakers, including members of his Socialist Party, say any change in the law governing religious activities may affect all religious groups.

## Kohl: East Germans making progress

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Tuesday that German unification was solving the material problems faced in the east but getting Germans from east and west to know each other was still a challenge.

In a televised address on German Unity Day, Mr. Kohl said eastern Germany had made considerable economic progress since it merged with the west on Oct. 3, 1990.

The chancellor also noted Germany had been at peace with its neighbours for 50 years and pledged it would do everything to make sure its relations stayed that way.

"Nowhere else in Europe is economic growth as strong as in eastern Germany," he said. Annual growth there, buoyed by massive transfer payments from the west, is about nine per cent.

"Other countries in

Eastern Europe have to struggle with far larger problems," he said, according to an advance text of the address.

"With hard work and confidence, we will master the economic and social problems in the foreseeable future," he said.

"In the long run, (improving) personal contacts among Germans are the bigger task for all of us. Here we need patience, good will and the readiness to listen to each other."

Mr. Kohl said he took seriously the concerns of people who were disappointed with the way united Germany had turned out.

"People in the east experienced dramatic changes in all facets of their lives in a very short time," he said. "Rebuilding the east remains our most important domestic task."

Mr. Kohl also paid a com-

pliment to the East German civil rights movement, which helped open the Berlin Wall in November 1989 but was then swept aside as Western-dominated parties quickly came to dominate the political scene.

"I would especially like to recall those men and women who bravely stood up to the Communist regime," he said. "Their example should encourage us to be more responsible with our mutual freedom."

Speaking about Germany's relations abroad, the chancellor said: "We Germans enjoy friendship and respect in the world community. We have lived in peace with our neighbours in Europe for 50 years. We will do everything in our power to make sure it stays that way in future."

Civil Aviation Department spokesman Albert Lam said the airport may have to remain open beyond its normal midnight (1600 GMT) curfew to cope with a backlog of about 25 flights, many delayed from Monday.

Hong Kong's dwindling fishing community, who took shelter behind breakwaters designed to protect them from typhoons, spent the afternoon bailing out their junks and trawlers but said they did not expect to venture out to sea for a day or two.

Experts counted 407 tremors between midnight and 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, including 206 in one hour.

Most of the tremors were too small to be felt by humans, but people have been able to sense 100 of

several more children.

Several mines, left over from the fighting last year or planted more recently, are scattered across the country and in the capital. The government has formed a mine-clearing squad with the help of U.S. experts who began training Rwandan technicians a month ago.

The authorities urged the population to report any unexploded mine or grenade. Reports said people had seen the mine which

killed the children but had done nothing about it.

In another development Rwandan Radio said four people had been arrested in Kibungo district in the southeast in connection with the deaths last Thursday of eight members of the same family in Rusumo village.

The eight were murdered by an unknown number of attackers armed with grenades, iron bars, bammers and knives.

debacle they suffered on July 28 when they tried to overrun an army complex in northeastern Sri Lanka, at Weligama.

The navy sank seven Tiger boats and claimed killing at least 30 LTTE guerrillas from its Sea Tiger unit. It gave the names of five LTTE suicide bombers known as Black Sea Tigers who perished in the confrontation.

Defence sources said that the LTTE had also fired rocket-propelled grenades at the navy craft.

For its part, the LTTE's clandestine radio was silent about the latest bloodletting but said that 50,000 civilians had fled their homes.

Earlier the LTTE had said that 5,000 people were left homeless.

The Tigers are leading a campaign for a homeland for minority Tamils concentrated in the northern and eastern regions. More than 50,000 people have died in the conflict, which has dragged on since 1972.



British Labour Party's shadow chancellor Gordon Brown gives his opening speech at the party conference in Brighton (AFP photo)

## Labour Party leader faces down dissidents, sees British revival

BRIGHTON, England (Agencies) — Labour leader Tony Blair, buoyed by another victory over dissident left-wingers, will tell

British voters Tuesday to put his party back in power or face years of economic decline.

In a speech to Labour's annual conference Tuesday afternoon, the opposition leader will argue that Britain under the "old and tired" ruling Conservatives is simply not equipped to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Aides said the message would mark an attempt by Mr. Blair, after a year spent remoulding the party in his moderate image, to switch the emphasis to the tasks facing Labour if it wrests power from the Conservative government after 16 years in opposition.

"I did not come into politics to transform the party. I came into politics to transform the country. Just as Labour had to change, so must the country," a draft of the speech says.

Mr. Blair, who became leader 15 months ago, scored another clear-cut victory Tuesday over left-wingers who have been fighting a rearguard action against his drive to dump old-fashioned socialist ideology and broaden the party's appeal to middle-class voters.

After a short debate, the conference endorsed a decision by Labour's ruling National Executive Committee to ditch left-winger Liz Davies as a parliamentary candidate for allegedly undermining the party's leadership.

The noisy arguments of Ms. Davies' backers, and other rumblings of dissent by old-style activists, had formed an uncomfortable backdrop for Mr. Blair to a conference meant to trum-

pet Labour's readiness for office after four general election defeats.

Mr. Blair's poll lead, though still commanding, has slipped to less than 30 percentage points and Prime Minister John Major's camp has suddenly seemed more confident about his prospects of retaining power at the next election, due by May 1997.

But the conference — displaying a discipline that has not always been evident during Labour's 16 years in opposition — has so far gone well for Mr. Blair.

Aides said the Labour leader planned to build on the early successes by telling the conference that it will be a revitalised Labour's task to lead Britain back into "the premier league of nations."

Fifty years after World War II and five years before the new millennium, Britain had reached a turning point.

"The challenge to Britain is to modernise or decline for ever," he says. Britain under the Conservatives had grown old and tired and only Labour could summon up the moral purpose needed to build a new social order.

As part of a new "contract with Britain," with echoes of U.S. Republican leader Newt Gingrich's "contract with America," Mr. Blair will outline plans to wean single mothers off social security and to reduce school class sizes, aides said.

He singles out the need to reform Britain's National Lottery and also intends to stress that the successful countries of tomorrow will be those that harness education and technology in a process of life-long learning.

Meanwhile the Daily Telegraph said Tuesday Mr. Blair has struck a secret

deal with the bosses of Britain's main trades unions giving them a central role in the party's electoral strategy.

The report said that the leaders of 12 major unions met Mr. Blair at a meeting two weeks ago. "At the meeting, which was not made public, Mr. Blair promised that improved rights for workers would be a key element of Labour's election campaign.

"In return, the unions would pour resources into the marginal seats that Labour must win to end more than 16 years in opposition," said the paper.

The revelations come just after a poll in a rival paper, the Guardian, suggested the reduced role of the unions in the party made voters more likely to vote Labour at the next election, due by 1997.

The Telegraph said: "Although Mr. Blair has given the public impression that he is keeping the unions at arm's length, documents passed to the Daily Telegraph show that in private he is relying on them more than ever to get him into Downing Street."

The paper concluded the revelations would be highly embarrassing for the Labour Party.

President of the Conservatives Brian Mawhinney immediately accused Mr. Blair of "breath-taking hypocrisy".

It showed the party was still in the hands of the union, he added. "People are going to be disgusted at the idea that there is a secret deal."

A spokesman for the Labour Party dismissed the matter as "absurd", since meetings between Blair and the unions were held on a regular basis and were not secret.

## Do pigeons commute? British scientists ask

LONDON (R) — Readers of one of Britain's most authoritative scientific journals have begun a debate over whether pigeons are using London's metro system to get about the capital. In letters to the New Scientist, several said they had noticed birds hopping on and off underground trains — apparently deliberately. Sabina Foster reported seeing a pair of pigeons getting on a train at one station, Aldgate, staying by the door, and "aligning with purpose" at the next, Tower Hill. "How did they know the platform for Tower Hill was the same side of the carriage as that for Aldgate?" she asked. Another reader, noting that pigeons have renowned navigational facilities, wrote: "I see no reason why they should not have cottoned on to the fact that travel by tube saves their wings."

## Keanu Reeves says no desire to marry

LONDON (R) — Hollywood heartthrob Keanu Reeves has no desire to get married, "I have friends who have made the leap but it is not for me," the 31-year-old star of the box office hit Speed told Women's Own magazine in an interview. "My parents split up when I was young and I have seen nothing to recommend marriage," told the British weekly magazine. Asked about allegations he was homosexual, Reeves said: "I've deliberately kept out of the gossip columns. I haven't been photographed with lots of girlfriends and I've kept my private life to myself."

## Dutch drug dealer plays tag with police

GRONINGEN, Netherlands (R) — A convicted drug dealer wearing an electronic tag as part of a trial in the northern Dutch city of Groningen carried on a lucrative drug business from home, ANP news agency said. The 33-year-old man adhered diligently to the times he was allowed to be away from home, the electronic tag project leader told ANP. "Unfortunately he used the time to develop criminal activities." The man — one of two offenders chosen for the scheme — was arrested after a tip from one of his customers.

## Finns leave EU meeting to catch a plane

LUXEMBOURG (R) — Finland's top ministers had to leave a European Union (EU) foreign ministers' meeting early because their country had no plane to take them home. Foreign Minister Tarja Halonen and European Affairs Minister Ole Norback left for the airport in late afternoon to catch a regular, scheduled flight, despite pending business on Russia and EU openness. Issues of special concern to Helsinki. A Finnish diplomat said the problem was that Finland has no government planes and ministers must travel by commercial airline. Worse yet for the ministers was that there was no direct flight to Helsinki from Luxembourg. The two had to change in Switzerland.

## Buckingham Palace hauls in the tourists

LONDON (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth raised £3 million (\$4.8 million) this year by allowing paid visitors into Buckingham Palace, her London home, a palace spokesman said. The money will go towards the restoration of another of her palaces, Windsor, just outside London, which was badly damaged by a fire in 1992.

Do pigeons commute? British scientists ask  
LONDON (R) — Readers of Britain's most authoritative scientific journals have begun a debate over whether a bird's migratory system is about the capital. In letters to the New Scientist, and they had apparently deliberately seen a pair of pigeons get on a train at one station, Aldgate, staying by door, and "alighting h purpose" at the next, Caver Hill. "How did they know the platform for Caver Hill was the same as the carriage as that Aldgate?" she asked another reader, noting that pigeons have renowned navigational facilities: "They see no reason to have to rely on the fact that they travel by tube saves them time."

**Keanu Reeves says no desire to marry**

INDON (R) — Hollywood heartthrob Keanu Reeves has no desire to get married. "I have friends who have made the leap, it is not for me," the 30-year-old star of the box office hit *Speed* told *Entertainment Weekly*. In an interview, he said: "My partner and I have set things to get married again," told the British magazine. Asked about allegations he was bisexual, Reeves said he had deliberately kept the gossip columnists from his private life: "I've been photographic in lots of girlfriends and I kept my private life well."

**British drug dealer plays tag with police**

INDON (R) — A cocaine dealer wearing a "sting" tag as part of the northern strategy to combat drug cartels from home and abroad said the 35-year-old man adhered strictly to the times he was allowed to be away from home, the electronic ejection device told the *Independent*. The man — one of two offenders chosen for the scheme — was arrested after a tip from one of his customers.

**Finns leave EU meeting to catch a plane**

INDON (R) — Finland's top ministers had to leave a European Union meeting early because their flight had to be delayed due to bad weather. The European Union minister, Lars Hahn, and European Affairs minister Ole Snarska left the airport in late afternoon to catch a regular headed flight, despite bad weather. The ministers had no direct flight to their destination, so they had to change in Switzerland.

**Buckingham Palace hauls in the tourists**

INDON (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth raised £1 million (£3.8 million) by allowing paid visitors into Buckingham Palace, her London home, to money will go towards the restoration of another of her palaces, Windsor, which was badly damaged by fire in 1992.



Life slowly returns to normal in Comoros capital of Moroni after last week's coup led by French mercenary Bob Denard (AFP photo)

## France sends commandos towards Comoros

MORONI (AFP) — France Tuesday turned the screws on mercenaries who led a successful putsch in the Comoro Islands, announcing it was sending commandos toward its former colony in the Indian Ocean. French Navy ships, which are carrying landing craft, are already visible off the capital, and 4,000 French troops are on alert on the neighbouring island of Mayotte, on Réunion, to the east, and in Djibouti, on the Horn of Africa.

French Prime Minister Alain Juppé said after the coup last Thursday, led by French mercenary Bob Denard, that there was "no question" of military intervention — but that was what the defence minister of the time said just before paratroopers landed in 1989 to expel Denard and his mercenaries after a previous coup.

Some 1,500 French nationals live here, 1,000 of them with dual nationality, and French officials said in Paris Monday that all options remain open, despite Mr. Juppé's statement.

Twenty commandos from an elite unit of the paramilitary Gendarmerie are on

their way to the region as part of the "prepositioning" of French forces, a French government official said in Paris Tuesday.

Mercenaries were reinforcing their positions around an airport near Moroni. Two European mercenaries and at least 30 Comorian soldiers had taken up positions on the runway at Itsambo Airport, which has not been used for years but could be a staging area for a French intervention, an AFP journalist reported.

One official said France was in an "observation phase" to see what Denard and his men intended before deciding on military intervention or backing a political settlement between politicians.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry spokesman Jacques Rummelhardt said in Paris Tuesday that France welcomed an announcement Monday by deposed Prime Minister Caambi El-Yashur, declaring himself interim president.

Mr. Yashur, who has taken refuge in the French embassy in Moroni and is also calling for French intervention, said he was seeking the formation of a

government of national unity. Mr. Rummelhardt said France greeted Mr. Yashur's statement "with interest."

Comorian army Captain Ayoubou Combo, who headed a transitional junta, warned Monday that French military intervention would lead to civil war in these tropical islands off East Africa, between Mozambique and the island of Madagascar.

"We will not leave our country and we are ready to die," the bearded captain told journalists.

France has already suspended the aid — \$20 million a year — on which the 500,000 people of these Islamic islands, one of the poorest nations on earth, depend for survival.

One of the main opposition groupings, the Forum for National Recovery, representing six parties, called Tuesday for a French-led international force to expel the mercenaries and supervise elections for a new president.

The two "co-presidents" installed by the putschists, opposition politicians Mohammad Taki Abdou

and Karim and Said Ali Kemal, also say they want a national unity government and have called a meeting of politicians Tuesday to discuss plans.

But the forum said it would not take part.

"We won't go," spokesman Abderraman Kudra told AFP. "We refuse to recognise Bob Denard's coup or the government he wants to install."

He said the forum did not want to see the return of 80-year-old Djibouti, still being held by the putschists at the Kandani Military Base near the capital, but wanted the mercenaries out.

Denard, 66, a Muslim convert who was the Comoros' strongest from 1978 to 1989 as chief of the Presidential Guard, has a Comorian wife and dual nationality.

Mr. Kemal told AFP he had staged his last coup and wanted to retire on the islands.

"He would like to settle here for his retirement and his business," he said. "He's human, he's honest, he has a right to that."

## Coup foiled in Sierra Leone, 6 held — military

FREETOWN (R) — Troops loyal to Sierra Leone's military government foiled a coup attempt Tuesday and six officers have been arrested, military sources said.

A Western diplomat and residents of the West African country's capital Freetown reported an exchange of heavy gunfire in the early hours of the morning.

There was no immediate word on casualties.

"The government in the hours with loyal forces foiled a coup plot in which six officers have been arrested and detained at the central prison," one officer told Reuters.

The diplomat put the names of the senior officers yet but those now detained are from the rank of major to lieutenant," one prison official said.

Residents said they heard sustained gunfire from the direction of the military headquarters, a concrete beachfront complex in

Wilkinson Road on the city's western outskirts. Earlier senior officials at Freetown's Pademba Road Central Prison said six army officers with the rank of lieutenant to major had been arrested and brought to the jail, accused of plotting a coup.

Spokesmen of the military government led by Captain Valentine Strasser said an official statement was expected on the alleged plot.

The capital Freetown was calm with people going to work as usual but the road to the prison was sealed off and military guards around it strengthened.

"We cannot release the names of those held at 10, including the six officers who were intercepted by loyal troops.

Sources close to the government, which took power in a coup in 1992 and is battling rebels, predicted further arrests.

**Dozens arrested after Mexico protesters burn buses**

MEXICO CITY (R) — Police arrested dozens of people Monday after more than 10,000 protesters massed in Mexico City's central square and some torched buses to protest government policies and commemorate a 1968 student massacre, officials said.

"There are several dozen people detained," Mexico City Attorney General Jose Antonio Gonzalez Fernandez told Mexican Television. "Four buses have been burned."

Mr. Gonzalez said police were investigating to determine which detainees would be freed and which would face criminal damage charges. The pro-government television channel said as many as 150 people may have been

arrested but that figure could not be confirmed.

Mr. Gonzalez described those arrested as "not a part" of the several protest marches held in Mexico City Monday which ended mostly without incident. He said "professional agitators" could be among those arrested but gave no other details.

Earlier, witnesses saw two buses set ablaze in the massive Zocalo Square in the centre of the capital, sending plumes of thick and black smoke into the air and causing small explosions as petrol ignited. No one was hurt by the blazes.

Shouting slogans against the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), a series of protest groups, including former Mexico City bus drivers laid off when the city government

school and university students, supporters of the leftist Democratic Revolution Party and schoolteachers converged on the Zocalo.

"We are using this march to show we are fed up," said 28-year-old Raul Corrales, who told Reuters his father was killed in the 1968 massacre. "My father died in 1968, but nothing has changed."

Among slogans the protesters chanted were "down with the PRI."

Policemen in the square at different stages of the protest estimated the crowd at between 12,000 and 30,000 while organisers said there were many more. Independent witnesses put the crowd at at least 10,000.

The protest brought together bus drivers laid off when the city government

took over the Mexico City bus system earlier this year, aspiring students who say they have been unjustly denied places at universities and opponents of President Ernesto Zedillo's economic policies.

But the event belonged to the students. Armed with megaphones, they marched through the streets cursing government officials, accusing them of denying them an education and ruining their chances for employment.

Mexico is undergoing a deep recession following the December peso crash. More than a million people have lost their jobs, and soaring interest rates have left many unable to pay their debts despite a government plan to help them.

## N. Korea expands military might despite economic woes — Seoul

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea added 10,000 men to its huge standing army this year and is continuing to develop long-range missiles despite its desperate economic problems, the South Korean military said in an annual report released Tuesday.

The annual white paper, obtained by the Korean press Monday, said the troop increase came through the creation of a new army corps and brought the strength of North Korea's armed forces to 1.04 million, one of the world's largest standing armies.

North Korea has also obtained 100 new armoured vehicles, 50 field artillery pieces, 10 naval support vessels and 100 aircraft and was focusing its missile development programme on the Taepodong 1 and 2, with a range of more than 1,000 kilometres, it said.

The paper, however, echoed the opinion of South Korean experts in saying the North did not yet possess a deliverable atomic weapon, despite U.S. experts' statements that Pyongyang probably has "one or two" nuclear

military factories for the production of chemical weapons, the capability to produce 100 Scud missiles a year, and stockpiles of toxic gas, the South Korean white paper said.

It is also now lobbying Moscow to assemble Russian MiG-29 fighter jets, and had purchased Russian M-25 helicopters, it said.

The paper, however, echoed the opinion of South Korean experts in saying the North did not yet possess a deliverable atomic weapon, despite U.S. experts' statements that Pyongyang probably has "one or two" nuclear

weapons, the paper said.

But it said the isolated state had more than 10,800 field artillery pieces, half of them self-propelled, which included 240 millimetre multiple rocket launchers and Frog-7 rockets, many of them massed within easy range of Seoul.

Last week, U.S. Republican Senator John Kyl was quoted as saying by the Washington Times that intelligence estimates indicated the Taepodong-2 might be able to hit the U.S. mainland by the year 2000.

The Defence Intelligence Agency estimates the Taepodong-2, large-warhead range would reach 7,500 kilometres while a smaller payload would increase its range to 9,920 kilometres.

"If it is even close to the truth ... it presents for the first time a very serious and relatively quick challenge to U.S. sovereignty," Sen. Kyle said.

Pyongyang also had eight

half of it free.

On Tuesday, Japan signed an agreement in Beijing to send an additional 200,000 tonnes of rice to the North.

The accord, signed at the Japanese embassy in Beijing by Shigeru Tamesue, director of the operations department of Japan's food agency and Kim Jong Il, secretary general of North Korea's International Trade Promotion Committee, followed two days of talks in Beijing.

The talks did not touch on the possibility of the normalisation of ties between Japan and North Korea, a senior Japanese official told reporters after the signing.

"The flooding added to their problems," he said. "They need a much larger amount of grain from abroad."

Pyongyang stunned observers this year by breaking with its policy of stubborn self-reliance and asking Seoul and Tokyo for emergency grain, saying initially that bad weather had caused "minor and temporary" setbacks to the spring harvest.

North Korean officials said last week that the problems were far worse following calamitous floods in the summer that affected 5.4 million people, or one-fifth of the population.

North Korea has since said it suffered \$15 billion in damage, especially to agriculture, from summer floods.

Japan would not be discussing further emergency rice deliveries for North Korea from its stocks of imports, the Japanese official said. "We have no rice left," he said.

## U.S.: N. Korea is living up to all accords

WASHINGTON (AP) — North Korea is living up to all agreements on its nuclear facilities while talks on new nuclear power plants continue in New York, the State Department spokesman said.

Mr. Burns said that compared to the North's 1.04 million. But the South's troops are backed by 37,000 American servicemen based here.

South Korea has since sent almost 150,000 tonnes of rice to the North to relieve desperate food shortages triggered by bad harvests. Japan also pledged 300,000 tonnes,

Korean nuclear weapons development.

A spokesman for the U.S.-led international consortium engaged in the talks with North Korea in New York described Monday's session as "useful and businesslike," another session was planned Tuesday.

The spokesman for the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), speaking on condition of anonymity, said the two sides were going over the framework agreement "line by line, sometimes word by word."

Mr. Burns said the New York talks, which resumed Saturday and continued Monday, were focusing on implementation of the agreed framework, which is aimed at ending any North Korean nuclear weapons development.

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The North Koreans are demanding additional compensation for the money they have invested in the nuclear power programme that led Western intelligence to conclude they were trying to build nuclear bombs.

Mr. Burns said that despite some opposition to the arrangement in Congress, the Clinton administration still has hope that final legislation will be worked out by a congressional conference committee will provide the \$20 million U.S. contribution to the project.

This is still among the most important issues that the United States faces, and that is our very, very strong effort to continue the freeze on North Korea's nuclear programme, to continue implementation in all dimensions of the agreed framework," Mr. Burns said.

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### From ideals to reality

HIS ROYAL Highness Crown Prince Hassan made a very important point Monday when he told the opening session of a Pan-Arab Conference on education at the University of Jordan that it was time we discussed the development of human resources on the basis of standards that are objective, substantive and applicable for all citizens. This has been one of the biggest challenges the country has faced since its establishment and remains as the main crisis clogging optimum gain from the country's human resources and potential.

Even more challenging in the words of the Crown Prince is the willingness and ability of the government to heed these words and translate them into reality. It is frustrating for all of us to see our leaders offer timely counsel, and then to see this counsel being effectively disregarded by public and private sectors alike. Provincialism, factionalism and sectarianism, Prince Hassan warned the audience, have in effect created components in our society that are incompatible with the public's own interests and perspectives.

These are the woes not only of Jordan but of most nations of the world. There have been successes in some countries, however. In Canada, for instance, multiculturalism has been promoted to some degree of success as the mainstay of the Canadian federation. In other societies such as the U.S., the melting pot strategy was endorsed and applied vigorously as the surest way to maintain cohesion and unity. There are, of course, many "happy medium" policies that some states have incorporated into their systems to strike harmony and comaraderie between the various ethnic and religious groups that make up the population. Whether we in the Arab World opt for either approach, it is clear that we need to reflect more carefully on the address of the Crown Prince and start treating people equally irrespective of their faith, ideology or origin. Admittedly, like others in the region, we still have a long way to go before we can begin to implement equality amongst all nationals whether de facto or de jure. But until we do that exploitation of our full human resources and potential will remain unrealised. For its economy, social and even political development, this is a loss this country can no longer afford to sustain.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Dustour Tuesday discussed a declaration issued by political groups who oppose normalisation with Israel, to abort deals with the Jewish state. The opposition parties openly declared their intention to foil the Wadi Araha and Oslo agreements, but failed to say how they would achieve that goal with their limited means and members, wrote Saleh Qallab. According to lists submitted to the Ministry of Interior membership does not exceed 14,000, the writer added. The opposition groups, wrote Mr. Qallab, are divided and weak and do not agree on common goals. Had the opposition been strong enough and backed by a wide popular base, they could have foiled the idea of a settlement with Israel from the start and before the convening of the Madrid conference, continued the writer. In the writer's view, these parties, which habitually issue slogans decrying their rejection of any settlement, are merely trying to escape from facts and present realities.

JORDANIANS would like to share unity with other Arab countries, or at least a confederation, but without Americans or Israelis shaping such matters for them or determining their future, and Tareq Masarweh in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday, Arab countries will opt for unity or confederation when and how they choose and out of a desire to safeguard their Arab interests and not to serve the purpose of outside forces, wrote the writer. Why should President Clinton or "his" Foreign Minister wish to raise the question of a confederation between Jordan and Palestine at this stage when the Palestinians have not yet recovered their lands or established their state, asked the writer. He said it is clear that Israel is trying to escape from recognising the full rights of Palestinians in determining their own destiny and an independent Palestinian state as a neighbour. The writer said that Israel is seeking to give the Palestinians an autonomous powers rather than a state, the dream which the Palestinians have been struggling to fulfil.

### Washington Watch

SOME THINGS change some things remain the same.

It was impossible to avoid making comparisons between last week's Israeli-Palestinian White House ceremony and the September 1993 Washington signing of the Declaration of Principles (DoP).

The days leading up to the 1993 event were filled with expectations: A psychological and emotional breakthrough was occurring, history was being made. This year, on the other hand, found neither the Arab-American nor American-Jewish community leadership expressing enthusiasm at the prospect of yet another White House event.

For many, the hopes raised in 1993 had been dashed during the two long and hard years that followed. Continued repression and violence, coupled with the lack of progress in implementing the political aspects of the DoP and economic development, left supporters of peace wanting. Among both Arab-Americans and American-Jews, it appeared that the opponents of peace had the upperhand.

Further diminishing enthusiasm was the perception that the most recent negotiations had been too long, too hard-fought and had yielded a product too imperfect to create a workable solution.

Since so few were happy with the results, what was there to celebrate?

While the events of September 1993 left the Arab-American and American-Jewish leaderships euphoric, Septem-

### Reactions to the Washington signing of PLO-Israel deal

By Dr. James Zogby

ber 1995 resulted in a more serious recognition of mutual responsibility. This was, if anything, the central theme projected by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the many speeches they gave during their two days in Washington.

There clearly is a new relationship that has developed among the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships. Their handshake and smiles didn't seem forced this time, and neither did their words. Mr. Rabin, Mr. Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres actually spoke about one another with humour and warmth. Mr. Rabin even praised his Foreign Minister Peres, in glowing terms — an act which some in the American Jewish community noted was more indicative of the changing attitudes than the warm words of praise and support he offered to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Equally telling of this change in attitude were comments both Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres made separately in public events during their two-day visit to Washington.

Speaking before a gathering of Jewish leaders, Mr. Rabin strongly condemned those who attack the peace process. He chided those in the Jewish community who think that because they give money to Israel, they can dictate its policy. It was the policy of his government to

For his part, Mr. Arafat

honour and complete this peace process, and if his U.S. Jewish opponents didn't like it they could be said, in effect, "keep their money."

At some point in his remarks Mr. Rabin noted that the goal of the peace process was to see Israel living next to — and he said — "an independent Palestinian state." After a pause, he corrected himself saying that it would be "something less than a state." A number of Jewish leaders who were present noted that Mr. Rabin often used the word "state," and during his pause, there was no negative audience reaction. Mr. Rabin's "apparent" misstep was no surprise and created no shock — a Palestinian state is an inevitability and most American-Jews know it.

For his part Mr. Peres, speaking before a mixed Arab-American and American-Jewish audience, also gave new insight into the changing attitude. He spoke of having come to understand the misery that Palestinians have had to endure and noted that he has learned in his life that no one has the right to take freedom and independence away from any other people. As he spoke passionately about these feelings, there were whispers in the audience commenting on the Foreign Minister's very personal expression of feeling for Palestinian suffering.

The combined result of the presence of these leaders in Washington, their words, and the White House ritual has been to create among Arab-Americans and American-Jews a new sense of com-

mitment to the peace process. Cynics have become believers — but believers who realise that the success of this process will require hard work.

It is clear that the current agreement is, at best, a weak compromise. Absent U.S. pressure on Israel to give more to the Palestinians got not what they deserved but what they could get.

The most optimistic and realistic way to describe this pact is that it represents neither a half-full nor half-empty cup for Palestinians. Rather, it is the beginning of having a cup at all, and now comes the chance to fill it. Will the landmines that are the landscape of the accord (e.g. too many settlers, too little land and water) explode in the faces of those who are earnestly hoping to make this peace work?

It is not time that will tell — it is the commitment of leadership in both the region and in the U.S. that will shepherd the process through to a successful completion. We left the September 1993 signing with euphoria — but with a passive sense that with the handshake, reality had changed. We left the September 1995 events knowing that reality had not changed. Feelings and some attitudes have changed — but for reality to change, the new relationship and attitudes must be transformed into hard new facts. This will require a mutual investment and commitment to implementing Palestinian rights despite the explosions and protests that are bound to occur.

### It Occurred to Me

By Ali Kassay

### Hailing an adventure

Jordan, as the world knows, takes tourism seriously and seeks actively to develop this industry. Why, then, does it persist in ignoring an area which, if developed, may attract millions in revenue? I refer here to adventure tourism.

The lover of adventure can fulfil his quest without setting foot outside Amman, simply by taking a taxi.

Attempt, if you will, the contortionist's feat of squeezing yourself onto the seats, which are invariably lopsided, slashed at various places, and unsteady on their runners. Notice, if you will, the sharp contrast between the red and white no smoking sign on the windscreen, and the red and white packets of cigarettes on the dashboard.

As the journey starts, your sense of danger is tickled by the discovery that safety belts, mandatory by law, are non-functional. Your detective instincts are challenged by the enigma surrounding the driver. His identity card which, by law, has to be displayed prominently, bears a photo rarely if ever compatible with his face. Even where compatibility exists, his identity remains unknown because the information in Arabic is written in a free and largely illegible hand, and it overflows into the space allocated for the English text, which is then omitted for the lack of space.

Seriously, if tourists are to feel welcome in this country, taxis (and drivers) should be made road worthy. Vehicles are often so rickety that they seem to be held together only by paper staples, chewing gum and string. This, in all fairness, is not entirely the fault of drivers. Regulatory bodies pass codes and regulations, apparently in total disregard to the realistic prospects of implementing them. In reality, taxes on spare parts are so exorbitant as to make maintenance unfeasible. Why not exempt taxis and their spare parts from all levies, and simply tax the income of the taxi?

Equally serious is the need for a campaign to instruct taxi drivers in certain basic codes of conduct like washing regularly, shaving either regularly or not at all, and not using the bare finger for excavation work in the nostrils. Two more messages need to be drummed in: the first is that a non Arab man is not necessarily a fair target for the driver's abuse; the second, and more important one, is that a non Arab woman is not necessarily a fair target for the driver's libido. The revelation is long overdue that a woman may don short trousers and a light shirt, merely because the temperature exceeds forty degrees in the shade, and not to invite on herself the worst excesses of Sodom and Gomorrah.

M. KAHIL



### Unrest in Karachi still Bhutto's biggest bugbear

By Alistair Lyon

Reuter

KARACHI — After nearly two years in power, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is still grappling with daily killings in Pakistan's biggest city, Karachi.

Karachi was paralysed on Sunday by a one-day strike called by the ethnic opposition Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM) in protest at what it said was the killing on Thursday of three MQM workers in police custody. Police say they died in a shootout.

Keen to reassure wary foreign investors, Mrs. Bhutto launched a big effort in July to crush what she calls a "mini-insurgency" and stop ethnic and sectarian strife plaguing the southern port.

Security forces cracked down on MQM militants, arresting more than 200 and killing dozens of others in alienated clashes.

Mobile telephone and pager networks in the teeming city of 12 million were cut off to disrupt MQM communications.

Simultaneously, the government began peace talks

which have yet to bear fruit. Last week the MQM boycotted one session and said it would not return to the table until the government stops the security forces from dealing summarily with its workers.

Interior Minister Nasirulah Babar, a retired general, says the government's policy of talking loudly and wielding a big stick will restore peace to Karachi by the end of the year.

The evidence is mixed. The daily death toll dipped noticeably in July, but has since crept back up, with 48 people killed last week and 149 in September. That has brought the total for this year to 1,523, approaching double the 800 who died in 1994.

Many of the victims, who include 135 policemen, were kidnapped and tortured before being killed by anonymous assassins — no groups claim responsibility in this dirty war.

Attaf Hussain, London-based leader of the MQM, accuses Bhutto's government of preparing for "civil war and genocide" by arming unnamed groups to unleash against his people.

The MQM, which will not admit it is waging a guerrilla war as well as a political struggle, has hit back by disrupting Pakistan's industrial and commercial hub with frequent strikes.

Top MQM negotiator Ajmal Dhliavi told Reuters last week that the talks had made no progress and none was likely while Mrs. Bhutto, whose vote base is in rural Sindh Province, stays in power.

"We have a political understanding with Nawaz Sharif," he said, explaining that the leader of the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League had accepted all the MQM's demands.

Some political commentators say Mrs. Bhutto cannot make too many concessions to the Urdu-speaking Mohajirs, most of whom arrived from India after partition in 1947, without offending their landlord backers in Sindh, of which Karachi is the capital.

Others say her government is taking its cue from the army, which withdrew troops from Karachi in November after 29 months but still plays a powerful role through its control of

the paramilitary rangers sharing security duties with police.

"Everything happening in Sindh Province is connected to the army and intelligence agencies," Dhliavi said. "They want to crush the MQM to divide it into competing factions."

Businessmen in the bustling chaos of Karachi are divided over whether the government has really weakened the MQM.

But they agree on the urgent need to stem the violence to restore the shaken confidence of foreign and local investors.

"The government is very eager to get foreign investment, but foreign investors are shy because of what they see on television," said S.M. Munger, president of the federation of Pakistan chambers of commerce and industry.

"Law and order has improved... but business confidence is not good. There must be a political solution and the government should take a tough stand on terrorists," he said.

"Our foreign customers don't want to come to Karachi any more," said Khalid Iqbal, chief executive of Quetta Textiles Li-

mit. "They ask to come to Lahore or want us to go to Dobai or they just divert their business to Delhi or Bombay."

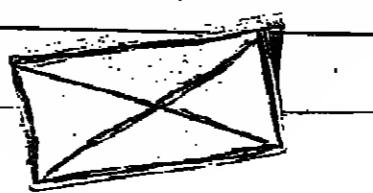
Still, Mohiullah Shah, secretary of the State Board of Investment, believes Pakistan will lure \$4 billion of foreign direct and equity investment in 1995, mostly in power projects.

"No doubt law and order in Karachi is a handicap, but we have put across the message that Pakistan is an attractive place to invest," he told Reuters.

A survey by Business South Asia published by the Economist Intelligence Unit recently polled multinational companies on how they viewed Pakistan as a target for investment.

It said 48 per cent of 78 respondents rated Pakistan fourth most attractive of five emerging markets, while 36 per cent saw China, India, Vietnam and Cambodia as better bets.

"When the (MQM-government) talks started, people hoped some settlement would take place," said Sirajuddin Cassim, president of Karachi stock exchange. "Now they've lost all hope."



## Features

### Betselem demands independent autopsy of Palestinian-American who died in PLO detention cell

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli human rights group has demanded that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat authorise an independent autopsy of a Palestinian-American who died after being detained by Palestinian security agents.

"The death of Azzam Musleh is yet one more example of the (Palestinian) preventive security service's failure to uphold its basic obligation to respect human rights," the Betselem group said in a letter to Mr. Arafat.

Musleh, 52, is the fifth man to die in Palestinian custody since the Gaza Strip and Jericho became autonomous in May 1994. Relatives say there were no plans to set up an independent U.S. inquiry into the death.

But State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said there were no plans to set up an independent U.S. inquiry into the death.

The U.S. government said Monday it was concerned over the death. But State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said there were no plans to set up an independent U.S. inquiry into the death.

Betselem demanded that an autopsy be performed, even though the procedure violates Muslim tradition.

Mr. Arafat chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has already ordered an investigation into the death of Mr. Musleh, who returned to his native West Bank four years ago after 21 years in the United States, where he owned a supermarket in Dallas, Texas.

A Palestinian official, speaking anonymously, said President Bill Clinton personally asked Mr. Arafat to

look into Mr. Musleh's death. "The case has reached the highest level," the official said, on condition of anonymity.

A U.S. official, also speaking anonymously, would only confirm that the issue of the dead American had been discussed with Palestinian in Washington.

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### Journalist held in custody

(Continued from page 1)

or gift or paying direct salaries.

Oudah.

One day after the article was published in Al Hayat, Mr. Maserweh demanded in his daily column in Al Ra'i that Mr. Ne'matt and Al Hayat be taken to court, and said that he was planning to do so himself.

If found guilty, Mr. Ne'matt could face fines and imprisonment.

The controversial report came after the defection to Jordan of Iraq's top military weapons' expert, Hussein Kamel, and his son from here for overthrowing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

In his report, Mr. Ne'matt wrote that "Iraqi institutions are trying to recruit Jordanian journalists and writers and working on winning over all forces that support the Iraqi regime by giving money

Under the current Press and Publications Law, reporters should reveal their sources if the court decides "this would protect national security, prevent crime or attain justice."

But Mr. Ne'matt's lawyer, Ayman Abu Sharh, was quoted by international news agencies as saying he was trying to appeal against the prosecutor's decision and to seek his release on bail.

Meanwhile, the Paris-based Reporters Without Frontiers organisation appealed to His Majesty King Hussein to "use his influence to rescind the detention measure" against Mr. Ne'matt.

This detention of (14) days appears too excessive in relation to the charges being investigated against him, the appeal, a copy of which was sent to the Jordanian Times, said.

and pressing charges against the defendant.

It was not yet known why Mr. Ne'matt was denied bail; judicial sources refused to comment on the issue.

But Mr. Ne'matt's lawyer, Ayman Abu Sharh, was quoted by international news agencies as saying he was trying to appeal against the prosecutor's decision and to seek his release on bail.

If found guilty, Mr. Ne'matt could face fines and imprisonment.

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to do so himself.

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### O.J. Simpson is acquitted

(Continued from page 1)

which he wore at televised football games.

At Mr. Simpson's house was the glove's apparent mate, smeared with incriminating evidence: blood with the genetic markers of him and the two victims. Also on it was a hair similar to Ms. Simpson's and fibers almost identical to those in the carpeting of Mr. Simpson's Bronco.

There was Mr. Simpson's blood on his driveway, Mr. Simpson's blood in the foyer, and a pair of bloody socks in his bedroom. The sock blood contained Ms. Simpson's genetic markers, as well as Mr. Simpson's.

In his Bronco vehicle, there was more blood on the steering wheel, the door, the centre console and the carpeting.

The trial spanned more than a year from jury selection to closing arguments. Jurors were locked down in a hotel to protect them from media contamination, corruption and compromise.

The prosecution case consumed nearly six months.

The defence was simple: O.J. did not do it.

Just who did do it — and why so much of the evidence pointed to Simpson — were more problematic for the Simpson camp, which crafted a two-prong defence: Simpson was a victim of a police frame-up and mishandling.

The defence argued that the glove at Mr. Simpson's house was planted by a racist rogue cop named Mark Fuhrman, who has wanted to nail Mr. Simpson since 1985, when Mr. Fuhrman — an alleged hater of interracial couples — responded to a domestic violence call between Mr. Simpson, who is black, and Ms. Simpson, who was white.

The black-majority jury was urged to acquit Mr. Simpson to send a message that police corruption and racism would not be tolerated.

Without a known eyewitness or a murder weapon, prosecutors spun a circumstantial evidence case built on the theory that Mr. Simpson had the motive and opportunity to kill, and left a literal trail of blood from the crime scene to his house.

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The black-majority jury was urged to acquit Mr. Simpson to send a message that police corruption and racism would not be tolerated.

Now Carey, at one point, does ask himself why poets might have adopted this

### Qadhafi to visit expellees

(Continued from page 1)

proved his point to the world and that he will take them back," said Umm Adel, a woman who left the camp in Egypt en route to Gaza.

Preparations were underway Tuesday, with some 150 extra security men deployed to keep order, Egyptian officials said.

A podium was set up and strings of lights hung around the camp of 80 tents erected by the Libyan authorities, while a t-shaped marquee was put up on the Libyan side of the border and Libyan flags hoisted at Misrata.

Egyptian journalists who entered no-man's land said they saw around 500 Palestinians in the camp on Tuesday.

If Damascus allows them to enter, it will be the first time Palestinians have been expelled directly from Libya in Syria. Lebanon, whose policy is closely tied to Syria's, has refused Palestinians entry and cut off all sea links with Libya on Sept. 8.

ities expanding the border camp.

Two field hospitals, a makeshift mosque, a school and an electrical generator have been set up.

Hundreds more were expected at the border later in the day and on Wednesday from Tigray, 120 kilometres inside Libya. They have already been flown to Tigray from various parts of Libya.

Another 600 Palestinians left the port of Tripoli on Monday aboard a boat headed for Syria, the Egyptian government newspaper Al Ahram said.

If Damascus allows them to enter, it will be the first time Palestinians have been expelled directly from Libya in Syria. Lebanon, whose policy is closely tied to Syria's, has refused Palestinians entry and cut off all sea links with Libya on Sept. 8.

According to the United Nations, 5,000 Palestinians have already been thrown out of Libya, and Lebanon, whose policy is closely tied to Syria's, has refused Palestinians entry and cut off all sea links with Libya on Sept. 8.

Mr. Amos noted the possibilities of building oil

### Israel

(Continued from page 1)

pected by early November but depended on a peace agreement for Bosnia.

Mr. Holbrooke, who spent Monday talking to the Bosnian government in Sarajevo, was heading for fresh talks on Tuesday with Mr. Milosevic in Belgrade.

"We're talking not only about the ceasefire... we're also talking about what happens after the war ends, with political arrangements being the number one subject," Mr. Holbrooke said.

"We're discussing the question of elections, governmental structure, trying to fill in the many blanks on the canvas of what the country of Bosnia-Herzegovina will look like after the peace."

## Two Cultures: A science fiction

Have scientists created a new literary genre? No, in reality art has long been dominated by science

By Bryan Appleyard

"WHEN I find myself in the company of scientists," wrote WH Auden in *The Blind Watchmaker* a masterpiece — because he has the literary gift to universalise a highly specific experience.

Carey's big claim is, of course, completely wrong, but interestingly so. This popular science is not major literature, though it is, sporadically, very well written. Dawkins is lucid and has a writer's flair for the dramatic. Stephen Jay Gould is graceful and vivid, and there are a number of other scientists in Carey's anthology who fully deserve the classification "writer."

Furthermore, it is true that this kind of writing does seem to have taken off in recent years. There are big popular science sections in all bookshops and scientists seem to be falling over each other to explain themselves to the lay masses. Perhaps they are idealists, though, it has to be said, the flow of books did increase dramatically once it became clear what kind of money Stephen Hawking was making out of *A Brief History of Time*. But, never mind the motive, a genre has, unquestionably, emerged.

In Carey's eyes this genre is the literature science has been waiting for. He makes the familiar *Two Cultures* point that, almost from the beginning, art has either studiously ignored or pompously abused science.

From Milton onwards, poets have trashed science as a deficient, soulless, destructive way of knowing the world. Coleridge said that Shakespeare was worth 500 Isaac Newtons. The very nature of the scientific project and of the scientific imagination condemns scientists always to come second in the race for greatness.

This is either a very small claim or a very big one. Of course, popular science is a separate genre; of course, it offers different delights from a Jacobean-verse drama — to say this much is to say very little. But I assume Carey intends the claim to be a big one. In this case, it is saying that popular science writing is literature in the grandest sense of the word, which is to say that it is enduring, important and, in an artistic as opposed to merely scientific sense, true. We remember, for example, Jonathan Swift because his genius expanded his work beyond its local preoccupations to realise a

lasting truth; we shall remember Richard Dawkins — Carey calls his book *The Blind Watchmaker* a masterpiece — because he has the literary gift to universalise a highly specific experience.

Carey's big claim is, of course, completely wrong, but interestingly so. This popular science is not major literature, though it is, sporadically, very well written. Dawkins is lucid and has a writer's flair for the dramatic. Stephen Jay Gould is graceful and vivid, and there are a number of other scientists in Carey's anthology who fully deserve the classification "writer."

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lasting truth; we shall remember

## EU, Egypt resume talks on association agreement

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and the European Union began at least five days of talks on Tuesday on details of a free trade association agreement which will replace the cooperation agreement in force since the 1970s.

Five groups of experts will discuss competitiveness, agricultural regimes, processed agricultural products, intellectual property and customs and rules of origin in advance of full negotiations in Brussels later this month.

The EU is proposing a 12-year transition to free trade with Egypt, which re-

tains substantial tariff barriers to manufactured imports despite recent trade liberalisation.

Under the old cooperation agreement, the only remaining restrictions on Egyptian exports to the EU have been on cotton yarn and cloth where Egypt exercises voluntary restraint, and on oranges, where Egypt exports a duty-free quota.

But the Egyptian government and some industrialists see free trade with Europe as the best way to make the country more competitive and catch up with other Mid-

dle East countries which have already gone further along the same path.

"The old agreement hasn't worked. Egyptian exports to the EU have been stable at about \$1 billion a year for four or five years, once you extract the oil," a European diplomat said.

"The other incentive for Egypt is that the terms of trade are changing all around them, especially with the new GATT, and they can't remain indifferent," he added.

At the end of the last pull round of negotiations in

of coal.

Geological and engineering studies confirmed 19 to 22 million tonnes of coal was recoverable at 120 to 150 metres, said the summary obtained by Reuters.

This would support a mine with about 535,000 tonnes per year capacity over 35 years, it said.

"We have much more coal in the ground which has not yet been proven and studied," the ministry official said.

Capital needs were put at \$32.2 million and total capital, costs, and interest would run to \$36.7 million, the study said.

The summary said it "indi-

Brussels in July, a European Commission official said he thought the talks would finish by the end of October but European officials in Cairo said this was wildly optimistic.

"I expect it will take three to four years," said one.

The negotiations have provoked a lively debate in the Egyptian press and some commentators have complained that the draft agreement under discussion favours the Europeans.

But the EU is unwilling to make radical changes in the

draft because it does not want the agreement with Egypt to vary much from those it has reached with Israel and Tunisia.

The EU representative in Egypt, Michael McGeever, said that in the discussions this week the experts would study the implications of the draft agreement in each of the five areas.

"It's an exploratory phase and these are areas they would like to get their teeth into. Then they will be able to see the consequences," he told Reuters.

## Sudan acts to stop pound falling

SDANDING applications for hard currency they have submitted to the exchange houses, it said.

The decree will naturally cut demand for hard currency in the exchange houses, where the value of the pound has fallen in two weeks to 800 to the dollar from 680 to the

But it will also add to demand in the banks, which rely mainly on scarce public-sector foreign currency receipts.

The fall of the pound has put the exchange houses in the spotlight and trade unionists, arguing that they contribute to inflation, have asked

the government to close them down.

But Mr. Hamza said the government would let the exchange houses continue to operate and even expand.

Since they opened earlier this year, the volume of trade in the exchange houses has risen to \$1.5 million a day from \$88,000 a day at first, he said.

He said the exchange houses could attract capital from abroad and eventually help to stabilise the exchange rate.

The exchange houses buy dollars at rates about seven per cent more attractive than those on offer in the banks.

## Oman seeks investment to develop first coal mine

DUBAI (R) — Oman is seeking foreign and local investors to develop its first coal mine in a project estimated to cost more than \$36 million, officials said on Tuesday.

Oman is developing its coal resources with the aim of becoming the first Gulf Arab state to use coal as a domestic energy source and is also considering exporting it.

A small oil producer compared to others in the region, Oman had made development of its minerals and metals a priority in diversifying and privatising the economy and is seeking foreign investment to exploit gold, uranium and copper.

## Dollar buoyed by G-7 hopes

LONDON (R) — The dollar was buoyed on Tuesday as markets anticipated that leading industrial countries may throw their weight behind recent moves to strengthen the U.S. currency at a meeting on Saturday.

Trading, although thin, kept the dollar above 100.5 yen level, well above the levels of last week when a roller-coaster ride left the currency just above 99 yen on Friday.

European stocks made a lacklustre start, depressed by a sharp drop in Wall Street on Monday, but London and Paris shares perked up later to show some gains. Frankfurt was closed because of the Unity Day holiday.

Currency traders expected little fresh action ahead of important U.S. employment figures due out on Friday and the weekend Group of Seven (G7) meeting of industrialised nations.

"It's certainly quiet and I can't see much happening," said Carlo Galazzi, Forex

manager at Nikko Bank in London. "I think we will consolidate around 100 (yen) as we go towards G7 at the weekend."

The exception was the Swiss franc which continued its relentless march up to 1,1475 per dollar from Monday's 1,1497.

Rumours overnight, later denied, that Fuji Bank had suffered huge losses in currency trading helped underpin the dollar against the yen.

The reports showed the market was nervous about further problems for Japanese banks, traders said.

Officials of the G7 — which includes the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada and Britain — will gather in Washington during the 50th annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

They will do some tough talking on the dollar and back it up with intervention to buy the U.S. currency should it

start to slide, traders believe. The general feeling was that while the officials would like to see the dollar still higher, they are probably not too unhappy with current levels.

"The one-way bet is on dollar-yen if you have the stomach for it and are relaxed about dips on the way up," said ABN-AMRO economist Tony Norfield.

In London, Europe's biggest stock market, shares edged up in thin trading, weighed down initially by the overnight falls in New York.

"Things are tending to drift," one trader said. "I don't think we'll see a sharp setback, buying support is still there."

But the negative sentiment was dispelled later by gains from British Airways shares and takeover speculation primarily in electricity and water industries.

French shares too made gains, after an unsteady start, unsettled by Wall Street.

## Israel oil imports to grow 5% a year

LIMASSOL, Cyprus (R) — Israel's oil imports will rise by five per cent a year because of new roads from Israel to the Egyptian and Jordanian borders and a new north-south carriageway in Israel, Mr. Ron said.

The increase in Israel's crude oil imports is more than double demand forecasts for OECD states and is more typical of consumption growth seen in the expanding economies of Asia.

"The number of vehicles (in Israel) will grow in a frightening way in the next few years," Amos Ron, president of Haifa-based Consultants Ronaeon told delegates at an energy conference here.

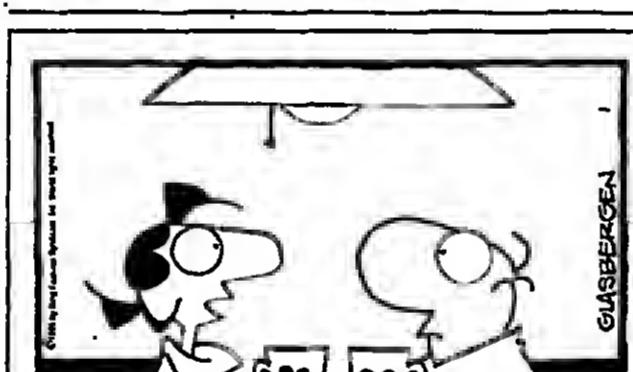
Increased gasoline con-

sumption was expected because of the construction of new roads from Israel to the Egyptian and Jordanian borders and a new north-south carriageway in Israel, Mr. Ron said.

The country's energy efficiency had to be improved to limit the growing need for imported oil and petroleum products.

"Israel is not on the front line of energy efficiency and we must do something about it," Mr. Ron said.

Israel imported 12.5 million tonnes of crude oil last year from the international spot market and through a supply contract with the Egyptian government.



## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GUBOH

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GLOIC

GLAJEN

NEURED

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arpiron

I'M SORRY

WHAT SUCCESSFUL BAKERS END UP DOING.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer:  IN

(Answers tomorrow)

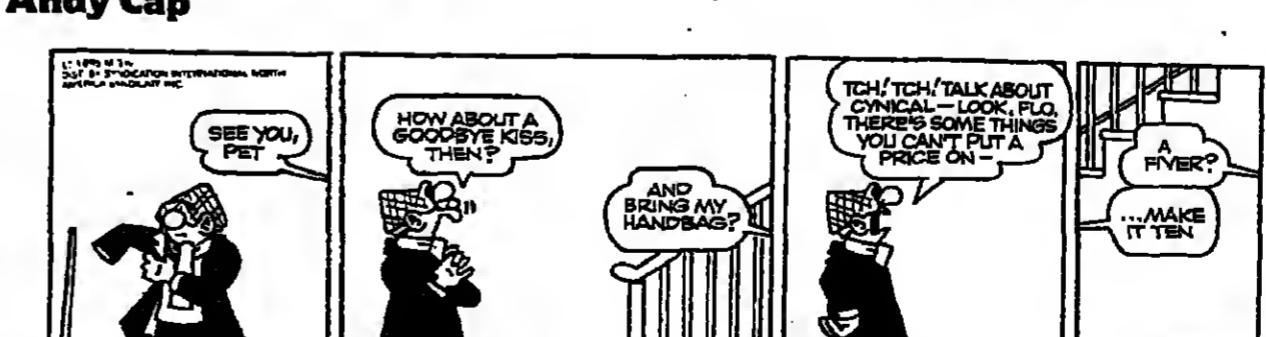
Yesterday's Jumble: PATIO AISLE BAZAAR SUNDAY

Answer: What the testifying lawyer did — PASSED THE BAR

## Peanuts



## Andy Cap



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## THE Daily Crossword

by Betty Jorgensen

ACROSS

1 Mansard, e.g.  
5 Kiel, e.g.  
10 Forearm bone  
14 Vain  
15 Bouquet  
16 Stingy  
17 Reverse, for one  
18 Poe's bird  
19 Author Grey  
20 Start of a quip  
23 English river  
24 Intuitive letters  
25 More of quip  
34 Biddy  
35 Goddess of agriculture  
36 Author Ferber  
37 Quiche need  
39 Dashboard components  
41 Tetched  
42 In — of  
43 Webber musical  
45 Once called  
46 More of quip  
50 Young seal  
51 Flight formation: abbr.

52 End of quip  
59 Stylish  
60 Guileful  
61 Hideoul  
63 Slangy negative  
64 Out-and-out  
65 Therefore  
66 Signals agreement  
67 Schemes  
68 Monthly payment

DOWN

1 Fit out  
2 Concert halls  
3 Patron saint of Norway  
4 Search about  
5 Went at top speed  
6 Inland sea  
7 — Scotia  
8 Church corner  
9 Surgical instrument  
10 Opened  
11 Meadowlands

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12 Darling's pet  
13 Exist  
21 CEO  
22 Ending for baron or count  
25 Young dog  
26 Government monopoly, of a kind  
27 Stevens of The Farmer's Daughter  
28 City on the Mosella  
29 Villain  
30 "There's many ..."  
31 "A Bell for —"  
32 Surmise  
33 Went out socially  
38 Mystery story characters  
40 Pilots  
44 Coy  
47 Alphabet run  
48 Make available  
49 Ahab, for one

52 Taft's territory  
53 Peel  
54 Certain league: abbr.  
55 Pocket bread

56 Tied  
57 Curtail  
58 Street indicator  
59 Tin  
60 Malarkey!



Yesterday's puzzle solved:

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said the exchange could attract capital abroad and eventually establish the exchange

exchange houses but at rates about seven times more attractive than on offer in the banks

/ up, down

and the U.A.E. put the debt at \$6 billion in 1993 compared \$4 billion in 1992. It gave no figures, rates in the first half of 1995 were 5.1 per Saudi Arabia, 5.0 per the U.A.E., 1.0 per cent with 1.0 per cent in 1994, 3.0 per cent in 1995 compared with the 1994. In Oman were the members that reported inflation rates in 1995

## OROSCOPE

CAST FOR WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 4, 1995

Thomas S. Person

Oscar, Cancer

Virgo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Foundation

6 (March 21 to April 19) You don't listen to what a tie has to say about a partner. A situation today which makes it hard to keep promises.

US: (April 20 to May 20) bus at regular and become more efficient, but as we a disagreement later. Avoid was

INI: (May 21 to June 20) concentrate on pleasure will not be too far and you can't be happy. Get at creature you like.

CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 20) It is important the care of the needs and forget personal de

of the time being. Show a good host towards special guests.

July 22 to August 20) permit a private con-

to stop you today from pushing a good deal in the world of activists. Listen ideas of partners

40: (August 21 to September 22) Don't permit stay who has little to do with you from important dealings. Forget per-

of this time.

At (September 23 to October 22) You are tempted to make comments are unlike your coope-

self, so refrain from

or they could be

concerns.

10: (October 23 to November 21) You may feel

in some way today

the fog soon lifts and you are happy self again

are unimportant.

TIARIES: (November 22 to December 21) Steel

of that business media

pend at much more

you can in some pleasing

ways.

RICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Concentrate

and selling well today

and firms are available

partner credit matters for you

ARIUS: (January 21 to

February 19) You have a

int idea today which

it be put in operation

so don't waste time

the business which

ES: (February 20 to

March 20) Make your en-

comfortable today so

ities which you partici-

will be easier in the

stone of October: Opal

surprise

Business  
Daily  
BeatA review  
of economic news  
from the Arabic pressA lake  
for  
Ajloun

Ajloun Municipality is contemplating launching an artificial lake project in the Ein Quneitra area, Mayor Mohammad Smadi said. Mr. Smadi said the municipality conducted a study on the project which aims to encourage tourism and sports, mainly canoeing. He said the planned lake will be seven-metre deep and will stretch over an area of 90,000 square metres. He added that the envisaged project will entail constructing chalets, a small hotel, playgrounds, parks and a rest house. Mr. Smadi said the project might be linked to Ajloun's main tourist attraction, the Ajloun citadel, which was formerly known as Al Rabah Castle, with 35-passenger cable cars. The mayor said feasibility studies on the project showed that it will cover its costs within five years. Speaking in an interview with Al Ra'i newspaper, Mr. Smadi said the Ministry of Tourism donated JD 15,000 to the municipality as a contribution to another tourism project which entails maintaining the town's streets, lighting the street between the town and the citadel and placing wooden benches on the road. He said the project is expected to cost JD 160,000. The mayor complained the Ajloun Municipality was suffering severe financial problems and called on the government to support it. He said the municipality's 1995 budget stands at JD 373,884, while the budget deficit stands at JD 159,000. (Al Ra'i)

\* The Customs Department started on Monday collecting 10 per cent sales tax instead of the former seven per cent after the new sales tax law came into effect. Department Director Nathmi Abdullah said the increase in the tax is expected to raise the treasury's sales tax revenues by JD 35 million annually. (Al Ra'i)

\* The number of cheques that bounced during the first seven months of this year totalled 263,800, worth JD 238.1 million, compared to 235,900 cheques worth JD 204.4 million during the same period of 1994. (Al Ra'i)

\* The Jordanian Exporters Society will take part in an international trade fair which will be held in Ethiopia Nov. 24-Dec. 3. The participation in the fair, "Ethiopia: Towards the year 2000," aims to acquaint Jordanian exporters with the Ethiopian market and to increase trade exchange between Jordan and this African country. (Al Ra'i)

\* Director of the Zarqa Agriculture Department Mohammad Ghweiri said there are more than one million dunums of arable lands in the Zarqa Governorate. He said 33 per cent of the Kingdom's poultry farms and 40 per cent of the cattle wealth are in Zarqa Governorate. (Al Ra'i)

## Alumnus gives university \$55m

BALTIMORE (AP) — A 1964 graduate of Johns Hopkins University has remembered his alma mater with a \$55 million gift — the largest in university history.

Michael R. Bloomberg, founder and owner of Bloomberg Financial Markets, a New York-based financial information company, gave the money to be divided among the university's eight schools and library, Johns Hopkins announced Monday.

Some of the money will go towards a cancer treatment centre and a cancer research building. Part will go towards increasing the school's end-

owment. The rest will go towards capital projects, such as renovating the library and constructing campus buildings.

"I'm personally improving the world and people's lives with my gift," Mr. Bloomberg said. "What better thing could I do? How better can I repay society for all the opportunities I've had?"

Mr. Bloomberg, 53, is the chair-elect of the university's board of trustees. He previously gave the university \$8 million, which went in part towards constructing the Bloomberg Centre for Physics and Astronomy.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and the European Union would rather discuss establishing an "economic space" than a free trade area, a senior U.S. Commerce Department official indicated Monday.

"Both sides hesitate to talk about free trade areas," said Charles Meissner, assistant secretary for international economic policy at the Commerce Department.

His comments came after the 15-member European Union, meeting in Luxembourg, called for improved ties with the United States, but failed to endorse proposals

als to examine a possible trans-Atlantic free trade zone and reexamine tariffs.

"We have, for all practical purposes, free trade in manufacturing," except for a very few areas, Mr. Meissner said.

Tariffs between the two economic giants were very low and the depreciation of the dollar against the German mark had "dissipated the importance of tariffs elsewhere in terms of foreign exchange," he said.

But both sides wanted to discuss setting up an "economic space," all the more so because of the absence of an official economic pact such as

those existing between the United States and Asia and the United States and its immediate neighbours, Canada and Mexico.

"This is an anomaly. Agriculture is the hang up, and we all know that," Mr. Meissner said.

Tariffs between the two

U.S. and European businessmen will meet in Seville, Spain, on November 10 and 11 to draw up agenda proposals for the December 3 U.S.-European Union summit in Madrid on closer economic cooperation.

Some 100 to 140 company

chairs from both sides of the Atlantic are to meet to

discuss issues of concern, notably standards and certification and trade liberalisation.

Earlier, European trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brit-

tan said in Luxembourg that an action plan to reassess the U.S.-EU relationship ahead of the December summit had been "broadly and warmly welcomed" by European leaders.

"But areas of controversy remain," he said. Foreign ministers had split over two suggestions, the first to carry out a joint EU-U.S. study on the possibility of a free trade zone, the second to examine an acceleration or extension of tariff reductions already agreed during the Uruguay round.

## Dubai to have biggest world duty free shop

DUBAI. United Arab Emirates (AFP) — The Gulf emirate of Dubai is planning to expand the duty free shop at its international airport to become the biggest of its kind in the world, an official told Al Sharq magazine on Monday.

The project is part of overall expansions at the airport to face a sharp growth in business caused by an economic upswing and the influx of visitors from the former Soviet Union and East Europe. Anita Mabra, marketing director at the duty free shop, told Al Sharq.

The first phase of expansion at the airport will cost around 750 million dirhams (\$204.3 million) and will enable the airport to handle a projected 10 million passengers in the year 2000.

From 3,000 square metres, the expansion will treble the area of the duty free shop in two years.

"This will make it the biggest duty free market in the world in terms of area. The expansion also covers the number of shops and items, which now exceed 60,000," Ms. Mabra said.

Growing traffic at the Dubai airport has sharply boosted business at the duty free shop since it was opened 10 years ago. From around 75 million dirhams (\$20.4 million) in 1985, its sales exceeded 348 million dirhams (\$94.8 million) in the first seven months of 1995 and is expected to reach nearly 500 million dirhams, (\$136.2 million) by the end of the year.

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Five-time Tour de France winner Miguel Indurain of Spain (R) and Spanish team-mate Marino Alonso train on the World Championship individual time-trial course between Paipa and Tunja October 2. Indurain is one of the favourites for the race (Reuters photo)

## Indurain aims for elusive world title

TUNJA, Colombia (R) — Miguel Indurain, five times Tour de France champion, Wednesday takes the first of two more shots at winning an elusive World Cycling Championship title.

The Spaniard, who thrives in the longer stage races, starts in Wednesday's time-trial and in Sunday's more prestigious road race.

Despite his dominance of the Tour de France, the closest Indurain has ever come to winning a world title was two years ago in Norway when he was runner-up in

the road race behind American Lance Armstrong.

This time he is one of several serious contenders in events whose outcome is unpredictable because of the high altitude of the courses, around 2,600 metres above sea level.

Indurain told reporters he expected victory to go to the rider who could adapt best to the high altitude.

"Tactics will be the least important aspect at this world championship," he said. "In this competition there are no favourites.

Everyone is an unknown quantity."

Other leading contenders include Italy's Claudio Chiappucci, runner-up last year in Sicily behind Frenchman Luc Leblanc, and Lithuania's Arturas Kasputis. But enthusiastic home fans have high hopes of celebrating a first Colombian victory.

Colombian riders have enjoyed success in major events, especially in the mountain stages of tours, and they are used to competing at high altitude.

Oliverio Rincon, who won

the longest stage of this year's Giro d'Italia and took fifth place overall, and Alvaro Mejia are Colombia's top hopes.

Wednesday's time-trial will be held on an undulating route which runs from the town of Paipa to the provincial capital of Tunja, 42 kilometres away.

Sunday's road race will be staged on a circuit near the town of Duitama.

The first half of the world championships, the track events, finished Saturday in Bogota.

## United boost profits despite traumatic season

LONDON (R) — Manchester United Tuesday reported annual profits almost doubled to £20 million (\$31.7 million) despite a traumatic 1994-95 season in which the club failed to win a major trophy.

United increased profit before transfer fees and taxation by 42 per cent to £16.3 million (\$25.8 million) and enjoyed net income on player transfers of £3.7 million (\$5.9 million) in the year to July 31, 1995.

Remarkably, turnover from the club's successful merchandising division increased 65 per cent to a staggering £23.5 million (\$37.3 million), outstripping gate receipts.

The strong overall performance came in a season when United missed out on the major prizes the pitch, finishing as runners-up in the Premier League and the FA Cup.

The club's reputation was also tarnished by Eric Cantona's notorious "kung-fu" attack on an abusive Crystal Palace fan, which earned the Frenchman an eight-month ban from the game.

United doubled their transfer fee reserve to £8 million (\$12.7 million) and Chief Executive Martin Edwards said the club were ready to spend to strengthen their squad.

"If the team is not performing well later in the season then it may be that we will want to enter the mar-

ket," Edwards said. "We really don't know whether we will have to use it (the reserve) but that's what it is there for," he added.

United fans have been upset by the recent sales of stars Paul Ince to Italy's Internazionale, Mark Hughes to Chelsea and Andrei Kanchelskis to Everton.

Edwards said revenue this year would be hit by rebuilding work on the north stand which has temporarily cut capacity at the Old Trafford Stadium.

Work is scheduled for completion next May and will enable Old Trafford to house 55,000 spectators.

The capacity was 44,000 in 1994-95 when ticket and programme sales rose 10 per cent to £19.6 million (\$31.1 million).

Edwards said that United's first round elimination from the UEFA Cup last week at the hands of Russia's Rotor Volgograd should not have a great impact financially.

"We will obviously miss out on TV income. But we have never budgeted for cup success. Our major thrust must be to win a domestic competition," Edwards said.

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## Taiwan authorities to rule on Magic Johnson

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's health authorities are deciding whether to allow basketball star Earvin "Magic" Johnson onto the island.

Johnson retired in 1991 after contracting HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, although he later returned to basketball.

The American has been invited by an insurance company in Taiwan to take part in two special games at the end of the month.

But Taiwan has a law requiring HIV-positive foreigners to leave the country.

"We are studying very carefully Magic Johnson's case from the basis of related regulations," an official at the cabinet's department of health said by telephone.

"So far, we have not made any decision," he added.

After his retirement in 1991, Johnson returned to

play in the 1992 NBA All-Star game and the 1992 Barcelona Olympics as a member of the U.S. "Dream Team" which won the gold medal.

Johnson, now 36, announced his intention to return to the NBA prior to the 1992-93 season but changed his mind when several prominent players expressed reservations about sharing the court with an HIV-positive player.

In July this year, Johnson was reported to be considering making a comeback with the Los Angeles Lakers, who he led to five NBA championships. Johnson is the team's vice-president and part owner.

But two weeks later he said he had realised his future was "in business and not playing in the NBA."

"We looked at the international calendar and we saw some interesting gaps in the summer months," he said.

The league would be contested over 14 days during the summer months, Blatter said.

"The Argentine was banned by FIFA after testing positive for the stimulant ephedrine at last year's World Cup."

## Maradona is happy

Buenos Aires (AFP) — Diego Maradona has declared himself "satisfied and happy" with his footballing comeback, on his return from Boca Juniors' exhibition match against South Korea.

Boca won Saturday's game in Seoul 2-1 with Maradona, whose career set up his team's first goal, showing that his skills had not deserted him after a 15-month drugs ban.

"Boca's main objective is the championship," he said at Ezeiza airport on Monday evening. "And we must be well-prepared and more together than everyone else if we're going to win it."

Maradona said that playing again "was marvellous. I was hoping I'd be able to handle all the running around and I succeeded. I never thought I'd feel so comfortable with the ball as I did."

The Argentine was banned by FIFA after testing positive for the stimulant ephedrine at last year's World Cup.

## Mansell will not quit, to announce plans soon

REUTERS

LONDON (AP) — Nigel Mansell is considering a return to Formula One or Indy cars next season.

"Formula One is the pinnacle of motor sport and if I'm going to drive competitive again, I'd like to look at that formula before looking at anything else," Mansell said Monday.

"Anything is possible, and at the moment there is greater opportunity in America than there is in Formula One," he added.

"One thing is for sure ... We're not retiring."

Mansell maintained he's not too old at 41.

"Motor racing is a young man's sport and I still think I'm young enough to compete and win and go for another world championship," he said. "Whether I feel that and whether I'm given that opportunity to try and achieve that again

remains to be seen."

It's been a difficult couple of years for Mansell since he became the first driver to win the Formula One (1992) and Indy Car (1993) titles in consecutive years.

He failed in 1994 to win a single race on the U.S. Circuit driving for Newman-Haas. He returned to Europe at the end of the Formula One season for four races with his former Williams team, winning the final Grand Prix in Australia.

This season was a disaster.

When Williams declined to sign him — opting for the younger and much less expensive David Coulthard — Mansell joined McLaren Mercedes.

He was too big to fit in the new McLaren car — and a redesigned model with a bigger chassis didn't suit him. In May, he stopped the car on the 18th lap of the

Spanish Grand Prix and got out.

That was the end of Mansell's aborted season with McLaren and many assumed his career was over.

"As you can see, I'm quite slim and quite fit," Mansell joked at the launch of his autobiography "The People's Champion."

Mansell said he has declined offers with several lower-ranking Formula One teams. He admitted the top teams seemed to have their driving teams set for next season.

"If I just wanted to accept a drive I could have had five different drives since April," he said. "But I want to drive where I feel I can compete and win. And we all know in Formula One there are only two or three drives that really have a chance to win."

Mansell lamented not being teamed this year at

Williams with fellow Briton Damon Hill. He suggested that Michael Schumacher, who virtually clinched the championship with his victory Sunday in the European Grand Prix, would have had a more difficult time if he had been around.

"There's no question ... in a perfect world, hindsight being 20-20, I wish my contract had been taken by the Williams team this year. It would have been nice to partner Damon and I think the possibilities for the world championship could have been different," he said.

"Having said that, I think Michael has done an outstanding job this season. There's no question at the moment he's the class of the field," Mansell added.

## Sheikh Mohammed dumps trainer who 'misled' him on condition of horse

REUTERS

LONDON (AFP) — Sheikh Mohammed, the nine-time champion owner, split from his successful partnership with trainer Henry Cecil Tuesday after claims he had been "misled" on a horse's fitness.

The break resulted from

an unrevealed injury to two-year-old Mark of Esteem which discovered that he had a knee problem, displaying stiffness to his gait.

"This injury occurred during or after his race at

Goodwood. It is a degenerative condition of his knee resulting in acute soreness.

"Sheikh Mohammed was not informed about the problem and neither was Anthony Stroud until the day of the Royal Lodge Stakes when Henry Cecil admitted that Mark of Esteem had a knee problem, displaying stiffness to his gait.

Stroud said:

"A complete physical was carried out on Mark of Esteem which discovered that he had a knee problem, displaying stiffness to his gait.

"Sheikh Mohammed expressed considerable dis-appointment over this mat-

ter because the trainer had not kept him informed about all the facts relating to the colt and had misled him."

Cecil said:

"Obviously this is a knock but I feel that under these circumstances it is probably for the best as his first priority is Dubai and mine is my family, my staff, my other owners and, as ever, to win as many races as possible."

## Polish teams confused about which is home field for Olimpia

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

One of Poland's first-division soccer teams could face exclusion from the league if it again fails to show up for a game at home, a soccer union spokesman said on Monday.

However, Olimpia-Lesnia, formed earlier this year by the first-division Olimpia Poznan and the third-division Lesnia Gdansk, is ready to play at what it considers its home field in Gdansk.

Most teams show up in Gdansk without complaints,

but some travel to the western city of Poznan, about 250 kilometers southwest of Gdansk, where Olimpia's old field is under renovation.

Olimpia-Lesnia has already lost one game by default and faces another such decision for not playing against Lech Poznan on Sunday.

The spokesman said Olimpia's and Lesnia's merger so far has failed to win approval of soccer authorities and thus the team should treat its old field as its home.



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## France on defensive, aims for discretion in Tahiti

Combined Agency dispatches

FRANCE, fighting continued local and global condemnation of its latest nuclear test, was trying to stay discreet in its South Pacific territory on Tuesday to avoid fresh violence, officials said.

"In order not to put oil on the fire we want to remain very discreet," the chief of gendarmerie forces, Colonel Jean-Jacques Plante, told Reuters in Tahiti's capital.

As Papeete awoke to its normal gridlock traffic, the city was calm, but gendarmes, in their distinctive blue trucks and cars, cruised the streets. Over 800 gendarmes are deployed in the capital, most of them staying in hotels around town.

A Molotov cocktail was thrown at a courthouse in the city on Sunday Tahiti time, but no one was hurt (Tahiti is behind the international dateline). The firebomb was a sign that protests may take the form of terrorism instead of street riots.

A youth speeding by on a motorcycle threw the Molotov cocktail at the door of the courthouse hours after France detonated a nuclear blast measured at about 100 kilotonnes at Fangataufa aol.

France tripled its contingent of riot police in Tahiti to more than 720 in the days before its second nuclear test. Along with regular police, more than 1,000 officers are on duty in Papeete alone.

This show of force has deterred a repeat of anti-

nuclear and pro-independence demonstrations that spiraled into riots, looting and arson after the first nuclear blast on Mururoa atoll on Sept. 5.

The riots left part of the international airport terminal burned out, and dozens of downtown shops and buildings were looted and burned. More than 200 people were jailed.

Some police were stripped of their weapons during the riot, leading to concern that renewed violence could take the form of sniping or other forms of urban terrorism.

At the United Nations in New York, France again struck a defiant note, describing the arguments used to condemn its disputed testing programme as "unfounded, unfair and mean."

It said the South Pacific Forum's decision to suspend France as a dialogue partner was "particularly unpleasant."

In announcing the forum's decision to the U.N. General Assembly, the grouping's chair, Papua New Guinea, said France had shown total disregard for regional opposition to its test series, the first since Paris declared a moratorium in 1992.

"I am absolutely dismayed at France's continuing disregard of the South Pacific Forum and the international community's outrage at the French government's arrogance in detonating yet another nuclear bomb," Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Julius Chan said in a statement issued after his

U.N. address. He also commented on the possibility of the forum's member states breaking bilateral ties with Paris. So far only the tiny island nations of Nauru and Kiribati have suspended relations.

"I can sense that individual countries will begin to view the bilateral relations with France and that will have an effect on trade and other areas of cooperation with France," Mr. Chan told Australian Radio.

But Australia, one of the region's fiercest critics of French testing, immediately rejected suggestions that Canberra suspend ties with Paris.

"Engagement is the answer," Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating told reporters in the southern city of Adelaide.

Regional analysts said

France's influence as a major aid donor to the region meant it was unlikely many small island nations would follow the example of Nauru and Kiribati.

Japan, one of the region's two biggest aid donors along with Australia, said on Tuesday it would send a special envoy to the United Nations next week to seek more support for a proposed resolution calling for an immediate halt to nuclear testing.

Yoshio Hatano, a former Japanese ambassador to the world body, will travel to New York on Sunday to start rallying support among delegates from other countries, a foreign ministry spokesman said in Tokyo.

He said an Israeli's annual income averaged \$14,000 a year, a Palestinian's a scant \$1,000.

As foreign minister, Dr. Abu Jaber headed a joint Jordanian-Palestinian team to the Arab-Israeli peace talks when they began in Madrid in October 1991.

"Four years later, the region is still not at peace, leaving much room for pessimism," he cautioned.

"Israel has to take a quantum leap into redefining its security, not in military terms alone, and thus must understand that for the peace to be durable, it has to be both honorable and comprehensive," he added.

Dr. Abu Jaber called on the United States, Japan and the European Union (EU) states to support the process



**ASSASSINATION BID:** The shattered remains of the car of Macedonian President Gligorov after a bomb exploded in central Skopje on Tuesday, killing the driver and wounding the president in an assassination attempt which coincided with his government's moves to mend fences with neighbouring Serbia and Greece (see page one) (AFP photo)

## 'Joint projects needed to cement M.E. peace'

LIMASSOL (AP) — The Middle East peace process will be consolidated only after Arabs and Israelis conclude joint development projects, speakers from both sides said during an energy conference Tuesday.

Former Jordanian Foreign

Minister Kamel Abu Jaber

said it was imperative to close

the huge disparity in per capita income between Israelis and Palestinians.

He said an Israeli's annual

income averaged \$14,000 a

year, a Palestinian's a scant

\$1,000.

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sive," he added.

Dr. Abu Jaber called on

the United States, Japan and

the European Union (EU)

states to support the process

through economic assistance. He said that "for decades the carrot of peace dangled promising development and investment designed to right the conflict-caused economic disparities..."

"It is only through a massive and serious effort that the region can extricate itself from the terribly strong web of under-development in which it has been caught.

"The prospects depend not only on local and regional factories but on offshore effort as well ... yet no marshall-like plan seems to be in the offing," he said.

The conference, organised by the Cyprus-based Arab Press Service (APS), is debating Middle East energy strategy to the year 2008.

"Real peace will come only after we conclude such joint projects as oil pipelines and energy networks linking all the states in the region," APS Chairman Pierre Shammas said.

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